

Washington gives Israel reassurance on 242 and 338

By WOLF BLITZER
Jerusalem Post Correspondent
WASHINGTON. — The Reagan administration has offered fresh assurances to Israel that it will veto any UN Security Council resolution that changes the essence of Resolutions 242 and 338.

The U.S. promise was made recently following a revived Egyptian-French initiative to draft new language in the Security Council that would go further in accepting the concept of Palestinian self-determination.

Some administration officials are known to be prepared to move in that direction, but Secretary of State George Shultz was described as "firm in maintaining the long-standing U.S. commitment not to

revise Resolution 242, adopted in November 1967.

Israeli officials had sought the new assurances after learning of the French-Egyptian plan. They were also angered by the simultaneous U.S. decision to welcome PLO chief Yasser Arafat's warm reception in Cairo last month.

In seeking the U.S. assurances, Israel recalled the September 1, 1975 U.S.-Israeli Memorandum of Agreement in which Washington promised not to change resolutions 242 and 338. In that specific connection, the memorandum, which was reaffirmed by the Americans to Israel in 1979 at the time of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, said: "The United States will oppose,

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 4)

Arab gov'ts to study Lebanon security plan

RIYADH (AP). — The foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Syria and Lebanon will refer to their governments the outcome of their discussions on the Lebanese draft security plan and hold a new round of talks on the fringes of the Pan-Arab Islamic summit convening next week in Morocco, the Saudi foreign minister announced yesterday.

In a statement distributed by the official Saudi press agency, Prince Saud al-Faisal merely mentioned that the ministers had met here and "studied the difficult circumstances through which Lebanon was passing from all aspects, including developments since their last meeting."

There was some confusion as to how far the ministers who met in Saudi Arabia had gone toward agreeing on a draft for the security plan, Arab diplomatic sources in Riyadh described the conference as

"stormy." But other sources said progress had been made.

Lebanese government sources said Druse opposition leader Walid Jumblatt had submitted to Syrian pressure and dropped his objection to part of the plan calling for Lebanese army patrols in the Kharoub region.

The sources said he also agreed to postpone discussion on the fate of hundreds of Druse soldiers and officers who left the army in September with the outbreak of the latest round of civil war.

Jumblatt had wanted the soldiers and officers re-instated in the army and promoted before agreeing to the security plan. But the Lebanese government insisted the issue should be discussed in future political discussions to settle the Lebanese crisis and not linked to the security plan.

Sources close to the negotiations in Damascus said the Lebanese government refused to promise it will reconsider the issue of the

(Continued on Page 3)

Shi'ites in South Lebanon becoming hostile to Israel

By MENAHEM HOROWITZ
Jerusalem Post Reporter

METULLA. — Shi'ite villagers in Southern Lebanon near the Israeli border, who until recently were relatively quiet and cooperated with the Israel Defence Forces, have started showing signs of hostility to Israel.

Shi'ite religious leaders have been inciting their followers against Israel. However, there have been no attacks yet on Israeli soldiers or installations.

Hussein Asan, imam of Taibe village, one kilometre north of Kibbutz Misgav Am, over the weekend delivered a sermon in his mosque in which he called for struggle against "imperialistic Israel, which steals its neighbour's lands."

In Taibe and other Shi'ite villages, anti-Israeli feeling is being fed by daily radio and television programmes from Beirut and Baalbek in which extremist Shi'ite leaders call for the Israel Defence Forces to be forced out of Lebanon.

Resentment has grown especially after the recent bombing by the Israel Air Force of Shi'ite terrorist bases in the Bekaa Valley.

Rubin Aboud, a Shi'ite resident of Adaise in South Lebanon, who serves in Major Sa'ad Haddad's militia, said Shi'ites in the area are beginning to turn against Israel.

Shi'ites make up a large part of the IDF-sponsored militias that are supposed to keep order in the area and assure quiet on the border after an IDF withdrawal.

2 Liberal MKs call for settlement halt in areas

Post Knesset Correspondent

Coalition Knesset members Yitzhak Berman and Dror Zeigerman yesterday failed to win approval from their colleagues in the coalition executive for an urgent debate on a proposal to halt settlement in the administered territories on economic grounds.

The two Liberals intend to press for their proposal by means of an

ordinary motion for the agenda, which does not require the approval of the coalition or of the Likud bloc to which they belong.

They said the government is spending between \$4 million and \$5m. weekly on settlement in Judea and Samaria, and cannot carry on with this outlay unless it cuts the budgets for defence, education and welfare.



Premier Zhao Ziyang (left) yesterday arrives in the U.S. on the first such visit by a premier of the Peoples Republic of China. Story — Page 4 (UPI telephoto)



General John Vessey, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, inspects an honour guard before meeting the IDF General Staff in Tel Aviv yesterday. Story — Page 2. (IPPA)

Shamir: terrorism won't make us quit Lebanon

By JUDY SIEGEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Israel will not leave Lebanon under pressure of terror attacks on its soldiers, but only when Galilee's security is ensured, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir declared yesterday.

"All those who harm our soldiers will, instead of quickening our withdrawal, lengthen it because they increase our fear that if we leave Lebanon and return to the international border, terrorist forces will follow and reach our border," he said.

Addressing the afternoon session of the Zionist General Council in Jerusalem, the premier said that Israel is not interested in threatening Syria. "If we were, we wouldn't have signed an agreement with Lebanon that the Israeli forces would withdraw in exchange for proper security arrangements."

Shamir added that Israeli and U.S. interests are identical in many fields, but there remain disagreements on vital security matters.

Turning to Israel's economic woes, the premier said there is no reason for despair, since the country has a strong economic, industrial and agricultural base.

Labour peace, he said, would enable the government to stabilize prices and prevent unemployment, and he called on the Histadrut and employers to open negotiations "immediately."

Answering questions from the audience, Shamir told a delegate who complained about the shortage of housing for newcomers that "I knew I would be asked that question." He proceeded to read figures of housing solutions that had been provided by the Housing Ministry.

Asked whether Israel could, in its present economic difficulties, continue to promote aliyah from the West, Shamir said that Israel had absorbed aliyah even in its most difficult early years, and that "if we had waited for prosperity, we never would have taken in any olim."

Arens: IDF may quit Awali line unilaterally

Post Defence Reporter

BAT YAM. — Israel may withdraw from the Awali line in Lebanon even if the Beirut government is incapable of honouring its undertaking in the May 17, 1982 accord to prevent terrorist attacks against Galilee, Defence Minister Moshe Arens said yesterday.

Addressing Herut members here, the minister recalled that Israel had withdrawn from the Shouf despite the fact that President Amin Jemayel's government was incapable of asserting its sovereignty in the vacated area and found it "difficult" to guarantee there would be no terrorist attacks against Israel following that pullback.

Arens said he was pleased with the Druse success in doing the job themselves, and added: "There is a chance for parallel achievements with regard to other parts of Lebanon."

He did not indicate when such a pullback might take place or what the new line would be.

Jordan parliament meets first time in decade

AMMAN (Reuters). — Jordan's parliament met yesterday in a special session after a 10-year suspension and endorsed a constitutional amendment paving the way for electing new members to vacant seats in the house.

King Hussein recalled the house, which equally represents the east bank of the Jordan River and Judea and Samaria on its west bank, last Thursday, a move political sources said could lead to restarting the stalled Middle East peace process.

But Prime Minister Mudar Badran told journalists after yesterday's session that the king's action was a "purely internal issue which has no bearing at all on any other matter."

Hazem Nuseibeh, a member of the senate from Jerusalem and Jordan's former ambassador to the UN, said the reconvening of parliament was "not a magic key to regaining the Palestinian land. It is the beginning of an arduous long road and I call upon Abu Ammar (PLO chief Yasser Arafat) to come to Jordan quickly to discuss joint strategy with King Hussein."

Hussein suspended the house

shortly after the 1974 Rabat Arab summit recognized the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

The House of Deputies endorsed the amendment by 43 votes with two abstentions, but it was unanimously approved by the nominated Upper House, which met immediately afterwards.

The prime minister said by-elections would be held within two months to fill vacancies in the lower house created by the death of members from the east bank. The house would then co-opt six deputies to replace six members from Judea and Samaria who have died.

The recalled lower house will hold an ordinary session on Thursday, when Hussein is expected to deliver a speech.

Edward Khamis, a deputy from Bethlehem, told Reuters yesterday he had abstained from approving the amendment because "it is not right for east bank members to elect colleagues from the west bank about whom they know nothing."

But Khamis, who travelled from Bethlehem to attend yesterday's

session, welcomed Hussein's action in recalling the parliament. "I hope the move will lead to a resumption of the peace process," he said, adding that he would welcome a meeting between Hussein and Arafat.

A leading Kuwaiti newspaper said yesterday that Hussein would ask Palestinian dignitaries of the West Bank and Gaza to participate in the Middle East peace process if Arafat failed to go to Amman for that purpose.

Citing an unidentified "highly placed" Jordanian source, the newspaper Al-Rai Al-Amin said that the king's intention was to convene the Jordanian parliament in a bid to "pressure Arafat" to hasten to Amman and participate in the peace process within the frameworks of the proposals put forward by U.S. President Ronald Reagan. (Reuters, AP)

Fatah council expected to convene

TUNIS (Reuters). — Yasser Arafat's Fatah group was expected to convene its revolutionary council last night or today after his return from a brief visit to Algiers, a Palestinian source said yesterday.

PLO chairman Arafat flew to the Algerian capital yesterday morning for talks with President Chadi Bendjedid and to meet some of 1,000 PLO prisoners freed by Israel in a prisoner exchange last November.

Fatah's revolutionary council, an intermediary body between the top-level central committee and the group's rank and file, will discuss Arafat's visit to Cairo last month and the convening of a general congress, according to Fatah sources.

They said most of the council's 54 members had already arrived in Tunis.

French peacekeeper killed

BEIRUT (Reuters). — One French paratrooper was killed and another wounded when gunmen fired a rocket-propelled grenade and automatic weapons at an observation post of the French military headquarters in Beirut yesterday, a French spokesman said.

Colonel Philippe de Longeaux said the rocket slammed into the observation post on the northern perimeter of the "Residence des Pins."

De Longeaux said the attack was so swift the paratroopers did not

have time to return fire. He said the rocket was fired from a crossroads northwest of the base.

State-run Beirut Radio earlier reported a bomb exploded near the French headquarters.

In its first report of the incident the radio said a French checkpoint was attacked simultaneously but later retracted this and said the second explosion was caused by dynamite hurled at a pharmacy in Moslem West Beirut.

It said the dynamite exploded in the air and did not cause damage or casualties.

Shamir backs Sharon for Agency aliyah post

By JUDY SIEGEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir yesterday put his personal prestige and the full force of his office behind the candidacy of Minister-without-Portfolio Ariel Sharon for the chairmanship of the Jewish Agency's aliyah department.

He told delegates to the Zionist General Council (ZGC) meeting that if Sharon is not chosen, the world might interpret this as an admission by Israel that it was responsible for the Sabra and Shatila massacre in Beirut last year.

Shamir earlier made the same statement in a closed meeting with

leaders of the non-party World Confederation of General Zionists (mostly Hadasah members) at his office. The premier urged the Confederation, which holds the balance between the Likud-affiliated Zionist parties and the Zionist Labour movement in the ZGC, to support Sharon for the aliyah post. His guests reportedly left unconvinced.

At the ZGC plenum, Shamir answered questions from the audience after delivering his prepared speech. One delegate, a member of Herut, praised the Sharon candidacy, and another attacked it.

Shamir, reading from notes, said that the country's "best" people are needed to handle aliyah, "people who are energetic and who know how to move walls. When I heard that Arik Sharon was ready to take the job, I was very happy... I support him without reservation."

Some delegates booed Shamir's statement.

Shamir said Sharon has a "biography that anyone could be proud of."

The vote for the aliyah chairmanship has not yet been put on the ZGC agenda.

Sharon made his first appearance at the council's sessions last night. (See picture, page 2.)

As economic ministers meet Key ministers still opposed to 9% budget cut

By AVI TEMKIN
Post Economic Reporter

With the Ministerial Economic Committee scheduled to meet today, the Treasury last night had still not obtained agreement from most key ministries to the proposed 9 per cent cut in their budgets for fiscal 1984.

Those opposed to the programmed slash included the Defence, Labour, Health, Education and Culture, and Interior Ministries.

Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad met yesterday with Labour and Social Affairs Minister Aharon Uzan in an apparently vain effort to patch up the differences between them. Uzan not only maintained his opposition to the cut in his ministry's budget, but also said it needed additional sums.

After this meeting, teams from both ministries tried to work out a compromise proposal, without success.

The Defence Ministry has already hinted that it will consider a cut only when all other ministries have accepted the 9 per cent reduction in their spending.

The Health Ministry is apparently convinced that the cabinet will eventually allow it to make a much smaller cut, a concession that other ministries are also hoping for.

Treasury officials said yesterday that Cohen-Orgad does not intend to raise the approved IS1,443 billion budget ceiling. If the ministries fail to come up with the required proposals for a 9 per cent cut, the Finance Ministry will feel free to draft its own proposals according to its priorities, the officials said.

Deputy Prime Minister and Construction and Housing Minister David Levy said yesterday that building in Judea and Samaria will continue. Speaking to Jewish residents of those areas, Levy denied there had been a slow down in con-

struction of Jewish settlements.

Today's Ministerial Economic Committee meeting will be preceded by talks between Cohen-Orgad, Histadrut Secretary-General Yehoram Meshel and Manufacturers Association President Eli Hurvitz. These talks are regarded as a first step towards an accord on prices and wages, although the Histadrut has stressed that the chances of reaching such an agreement are dim.

While Cohen-Orgad talks with Meshel and Hurvitz, Treasury Director-General Emmanuel Sharon will meet with the head of the Public Sector Employees Union, Reuven Ben-Ami and the Civil Service Commissioner, Avraham Nathan, to discuss ways to cool the current unrest in labour relations.

The Treasury hinted that during the morning Cohen-Orgad "may" meet Ben-Ami. The Histadrut has asked that he do so.

Asher Wallfish adds:

Interior and Religious Affairs Minister Yosef Burg and coalition chairman Avraham Shapira, the Agudat Yisrael leader, met yesterday to discuss the difficulties in cutting the proposed 1984/85 budget. It is understood that the two agreed that Yigal Cohen-Orgad was not adopting the most felicitous approach and was not getting the right results.

Accordingly, Shapira sent a message to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir asking him to summon the heads of all the coalition factions, along with the economic ministers, to a meeting under his chairmanship, for a discussion on the economic situation and the 1984/85 budget proposals.

Parliamentary observers said the fact that Shapira asked Shamir and not Cohen-Orgad to preside over the meeting, was evidence that he regarded top-level involvement in the economic situation so far as inadequate.

Tripartite talks 'won't result in economic package deal

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The heads of the Finance Ministry, the Histadrut and the Manufacturers Association are to convene in Jerusalem this morning, with the government expected to press for some sort of package deal involving taxes, prices and wages to help overcome economic difficulties.

Addressing the Zionist General Council yesterday, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said the government was pushing for a combined effort with the Histadrut and the employers to "stabilize prices and ensure wages and profits benefiting our present situation."

A senior Histadrut official said he expected the government to try and promote a package deal but insisted that Secretary-General Yehoram Meshel would not agree to this.

If Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad or the chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of Economic Organizations, Eli Hurvitz, tries to steer the talks to that issue, "Meshel will make it clear that the mandate

he received from the Histadrut Central Committee permits him to talk only about employment and continued economic development," the official said.

It was Meshel who initiated the meeting, the official added.

The Alignment members who head the Histadrut do not wish a package deal with the Likud government because that would simply imply a social contract. The unionists also fear that workers will have to pay more for government services, that manufacturers will raise their prices, and that wage earners will end up paying for the deal, by having their pay frozen.

The Histadrut wants an interim agreement with the government, details of which it has not yet completed.

The Histadrut Central Committee on Sunday instructed Trade Union Department Chairman Yisrael Kessar to prepare a list of demands and present it to the committee. This has not yet been done. Kessar is scheduled to attend today's meeting.

Israeli soldier hurt

Jerusalem Post Reporter

METULLA. — An Israeli soldier was wounded slightly yesterday when the military vehicle in which he was riding came under small-arms fire on the outskirts of Sidon. He was taken to hospital.

In Marjayoun, the condition of ailing militia leader Major Sa'ad Haddad was reported slightly improved but still serious.

New crossing-point

Jerusalem Post Reporters

METULLA. — The Israel Defence Forces yesterday opened an additional crossing point over the Awali River north of Sidon. The new bridge is one kilometre east of the bridge on the coastal road.

IDF sources also announced yesterday that Lebanese citizens will be allowed to move between the two zones without special permits.

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	9.1.84	MIN.	MAX.	C F C F
AMSTERDAM	2	3	6	37 43
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BUENOS AIRES	21	23	26	84 84
CHICAGO	21	23	26	84 84
COPIENHAGEN	0	3	3	37 37
FRANKFURT	1	3	4	37 39
GENEVA	1	3	4	37 39
HAMBURG	0	3	4	37 39
HONG KONG	12	10	14	54 57
JERUSALEM	19	18	23	73 73
LONDON	11	12	14	57 57
MADRID	8	6	8	48 48
MONTREAL	18	15	19	64 66
NEW YORK	8	18	20	48 68
PARIS	10	14	22	50 72
PRINCE EDWARD	3	3	4	37 39
SAO PAULO	18	14	18	64 64
STOCKHOLM	18	14	18	64 64
TOKYO	1	3	4	37 39
TORONTO	1	3	4	37 39
VIENNA	0	3	4	37 39
ZURICH	3	2	5	40 40

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THE WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy, rain possible in morning

	Yesterday's	Yesterday's	Today's
	High	Min-Max	Min-Max
Jerusalem	73	5-9	11
Golan	75	7-10	12
Nahariya	68	10-17	17
Safed	59	9-12	13
Haifa Port	72	12-17	17
Tiberias	59	10-16	17
Nazareth	90	8-12	13
Afula	98	8-16	17
Shomron	90	9-12	13
Tel Aviv	79	10-16	17
B-G Airport	68	11-15	17
Jericho	63	7-17	19
Gaza	70	9-18	18
Beer-sheva	43	6-16	17
Eilat	33	8-20	21

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The Speaker of the Knesset, Menahem Savidor yesterday met with James L. Janssen van Raay, member of the European Parliament.

He also met with Rumanian Ambassador Constantin Vasiliu.

The Jerusalem String Trio with Rimma Kaminkovsky (violin), Yuval Kaminkovsky (viola), Yoram Alperin (cello), together with guest pianist, Daniel Hoexter will appear in a programme of Mozart and Brahms at the Jerusalem Khan on Saturday, January 14, 1984 at 8.30 p.m. Contributions will be in aid of the Israel Lung and Tuberculosis League in Jerusalem.

BIRTH

A daughter to David and Edith Shapiro, granddaughter of Louis and Hattie Shapiro, Josef and Bruria Klein, great-granddaughter of David and Hella Klein.

BRIT MILA

Mazal and Shem-Tov Reuven announce the Brit Milla of their son, brother of Shlomi, today at 2 p.m., at Beit Hamahadess, Beit Agron, Jerusalem.

ARRIVALS

Alfred A. Resnick, president; Ivan J. Novick, chairman of the board; Paul Flacks, executive vice-president, Zionist Organization of America, to participate in the Zionist General Council meeting, and to conduct ZOA business.

Lahat blocks meet on museum

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Mayor Shlomo Lahat yesterday instructed all city officials who came to the Municipal Control Committee's meeting to discuss the illegal building in Ha'aretz Museum to leave the meeting.

The committee convened to discuss the illegal building and to determine whether the municipal comptroller should investigate the affair.

Ha'aretz Museum director Rehavam Zeevi and engineering-administration head Yitzhak Caspi, who were invited to give their versions of the affair, failed to appear.

After the meeting began, orders suddenly arrived from Lahat that Municipal Engineer Shmuel Penn, Building Inspections Section manager David Shotta and other officials involved in the illegal building in the museums should leave the meeting, which they promptly did.

Then the committee's four coalition members voted to remove the issue from the agenda, defeating the three opposition members.

Defence Ministry returns \$64,000 car

Post Defence Correspondent

A \$64,000 car, discovered by an industrious Kol Yisrael radio reporter in the Defence Ministry's garage and apparently intended for Defence Minister Moshe Arens, caused a minor public furor yesterday.

But by the end of the day it became clear that Arens never even knew that the car had been ordered at all.

The Promised Land Ltd., Travel Office, Jerusalem congratulates Mrs. SHELLA ALTARAC on the occasion of her birthday

HOME NEWS

Labour actions continue

Jerusalem Post Staff

Some 300 representatives of workers committees in the Petah Tikva area yesterday demonstrated outside the Finance Ministry in Jerusalem in protest against the policies of Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad.

Carrying placards reading, "A monthly cost-of-living increment," "Orgad, you failed — go home," and "Enough of ruining the economy," they called for an end to uncontrolled price rises and an inflation whose burden falls mainly on wage earners. Labour Council secretary Ya'acov Hadassi declared this would be the forerunner of much larger demonstrations.

This morning about 250 workers of Ashdod's Rogosin factory, now in their third week of a strike, are to demonstrate with their families opposite the Knesset in a protest against the recent firing of 78 fellow workers.

Transport Ministry workers yesterday bowed to a request by the Civil Service Commissioner and announced they would not extend their one-day-old sanctions to the licensing of motor vehicles — for the time being.

The Civil Servants' Union recommended to the workers that they

hold this step in abeyance, at least until the results of today's talks between Cohen-Orgad and Histadrut Secretary-General Yehoram Meshel become known.

However, the ministry's Meteorological Service staff has halted all service to the public, except for announcements of weather forecasts. Permits for charter flights and ship port clearances were not issued yesterday. These moves will not be felt for a few days however, since such permits are given well in advance of airline and shipping movements.

The ministry's works committees are to convene again tomorrow morning to plan their next steps.

In the Haifa area, the Frutarom factory near Acre was at a standstill yesterday after management closed all production and locked out more than 300 of the 550-member work force, in a dispute over the implementation of a recently concluded labour agreement.

In response, the works committee called the remaining employees, including administrative staff and technicians, out on strike. The workers prevented trucks from entering or leaving the premises, and also blocked company cars used by management.

THE JERUSALEM POST POLL

Navon pulls ahead of Shamir as 'best for prime minister'

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Former president Yitzhak Navon edged into a slight lead over Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir as the man preferred by Israelis to be prime minister in a poll conducted for *The Jerusalem Post* last month.

Replying to the question "Who is best suited to serve as prime minister?" Navon was named by 18 per cent of the respondents, up from 13.7 per cent in the October poll. Shamir trailed slightly behind, with 17.6 per cent of the respondents selecting him, compared with the 15.6 per cent he gleaned in the October poll.

The poll, which covered a representative sampling of 1,292 adults in the second half of December, was conducted by the Modi'in Ezrachi Institute.

Institute director Dr. Sara Shemer noted that it is very unusual for a member of an opposition party to gain the top spot in such a poll, since the public generally shows a marked preference for the incumbent office holder. But fully one third of the interviewees chose not to respond to the question, she pointed out.

Third choice for prime minister was former premier Yitzhak Rabin, with 8.7 per cent (11.8 per cent in October). Despite his drop in popularity, Rabin was still far ahead of Labour Party chairman Shimon Peres, who was selected by 4.9 per

cent (down from 7.1 per cent in October).

Former premier Menachem Begin got 5.6 per cent in the December poll, taking a nosedive from his 33.2 per cent support in the July poll. Deputy Prime Minister David Levy, who was not even considered a potential premier in the July poll, was chosen by 4.7 per cent in October and dropped off to 3.6 per cent in December.

A similarly unusual pattern emerged on the question, "Whom do you prefer as Foreign Minister?" First place went to former foreign minister and Labour MK Abba Eban, with 13.9 per cent, while Yitzhak Shamir, who has been holding the office for several years, was slightly behind with 12.6 per cent.

David Levy was backed by only 7 per cent, though he was ahead of Moshe Arens, who got 4.2 per cent. Yitzhak Moda'i, whose name had been mentioned as a possible foreign minister, got only 0.7 per cent. An exceptionally high 46.3 per cent of the respondents answered "do not know" on this issue.

Incumbent Yigal Cohen-Orgad was the most preferred finance minister with 19.7 per cent, followed by Yitzhak Herzog, with 11.4 per cent. Former finance minister Yoram Aridor, who enjoyed the support of 20.3 per cent in July, got only 2.2 per cent in December.

Five Israeli terrorists sentenced to prison

HAIFA (Itim). — Five young men from Arraba in Galilee, who were convicted of various acts of sabotage and of belonging to a terrorist organization, were sentenced on Sunday to prison terms ranging from two to five years.

Omar Na'amana, 20, and Ismail Na'amana, 19, were sentenced to five years in prison plus three years suspended. Ali Na'amana, 20, was sentenced to four years' imprisonment plus three years suspended. Mohammed Najjar, 20, was sentenced to three years' imprisonment plus three years suspended, and Farid Na'amana, 19, was sentenced to two years in prison plus two suspended.

In 1982, the five organized a gang

they called the "Arraba Popular Front," which they said they intended to use to carry out acts of revenge against the state for the war in Lebanon. The gang blew up the water pipe to Ma'aleh Zvia last September, planted boobytraps along Galilee roads, displayed the PLO flag and set fire to the tomb of the Talmudic Sage Ben-Dosa in Arraba.

MICROSURGERY — Chinese doctors have successfully reattached nine severed fingers to the hands of a Chinese printing plant worker in a 30-hour operation, the official Xinhua News Agency reported yesterday. Many Chinese surgeons specialize in microsurgery.

Shamir and Levy seeking to tighten coalition's weak links

By SARAH HONIG

Post Political Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his deputy David Levy will both seek to "tighten the coalition's weak links" in the next few days.

Shamir will confer with Agudat Yisrael Knesset Members, following reports that the party is getting jittery about the coalition's future in view of the economic situation.

Aguda leaders, however, stressed yesterday that their party has not changed its position.

Aguda Knesset faction chairman MK Shlomo Lorincz said he did not know "where the rumours about Aguda entertaining participation in a parliamentary coup came from. This is a total fabrication."

Coalition chairman Aguda MK Abraham Shapira urged all ministers to unite behind Finance

Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad's demands for budget cuts. He said his party would give the government "some weeks to get on top of the economic situation."

The Likud is nevertheless concerned about reports of a change of heart among disciples of the influential Rebbe of Gur, some of whom advocated last week that their party team up with Labour in a coalition.

This has been ruled out by Aguda MKs, who point to Labour's staunch opposition to all Aguda's legislative initiatives. The MKs indicated that they would rather go to the polls than switch sides.

Other Aguda sources say, however, that their party is far from ready to go to the electorate. It has no real achievements to bring to its supporters and its coffers are said to be depleted. It also fears the recur-



Minister without Portfolio Ariel Sharon (right) confers with Eric Graus, life president of Herut-Great Britain and member of the presidium of the Zionist General Council, in Jerusalem yesterday. (Rahamim Israeli)

Bill would charge students, unemployed health-fund dues

Post Knesset Reporter

Self-employed and unemployed persons, pensioners, and students will be required to make "parallel" health fund dues (*mas makbil*) under a bill presented to the Knesset yesterday by Deputy Labour and Social Affairs Minister Benzion Rubin.

The bill passed its first reading without opposition.

So did a second bill presented by Rubin, under which National Insurance premiums paid by the self-employed will be based on current earnings and not on those of the previous year.

Rubin said that under today's inflationary conditions, using the previous year's income as the basis distorts both the amount of premiums collected, as compared

with that collected from employees, and the benefits paid by the National Insurance Institute, e.g., for reserve duty.

Employers are already required to pay the *mas makbil* to the health funds as a supplement to the dues paid by their employees.

Rubin said that applying the law to the other groups would enable the collection of dues in proportion to income and would ensure the provision of health services to all insured persons without regard to their income.

The rate of the *mas makbil* will be 4.95 per cent of income up to a maximum income of three times the average wage — today totalling about IS135,000 a month. Students and pensioners will pay 3.1 per cent of their income.

WASHINGTON

(Continued from Page One)

and, if necessary, vote against any initiative in the Security Council to alter adversely the terms of reference of the Geneva peace conference or to change Resolutions 242 and 338 in ways which are incompatible with their original purpose.

U.S. officials yesterday said the Egyptians and the French were pressing the administration to accept three revisions in long-standing U.S. policy on the Palestinian question. These included:

- To accept "the legitimate national rights" of the Palestinians. Until now, Washington and Jerusalem have gone so far as accepting in the Camp David framework accords the "legitimate rights" of the Palestinians. They have refused to insert the word "national," which, presumably, could be seen as supporting a separate state.

- To support "self determination" for the Palestinians. Until now, the U.S. has advocated a concept just short of full self-determination. Under the Carter administration, the U.S. said the Palestinians could "participate in the determination of their own future," without flatly endorsing self-determination, which, again, could imply a separate state.

- To work towards "simultaneous and mutual recognition" between Israel and the PLO. The U.S. posi-

tion, formalized in the 1975 Memorandum of Agreement, has ruled out any recognition of the PLO until the PLO first accepts Israel's right to exist and UN Resolutions 242 and 338.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir wrote to Shultz last week on this sensitive matter. He reaffirmed Israel's opposition to any changes in Resolution 242.

The U.S. and Israel fundamentally disagree on the nature of Arafat's role in the effort to promote peace talks. Washington is convinced that only Arafat could extend a necessary green light to Jordan's King Hussein to support the Reagan peace plan. Israel, on the other hand, is convinced that Hussein will get involved only after Arafat and the PLO have been totally discredited as the sole representative of the Palestinians. That explains why the U.S. and Israel reacted so differently to Arafat's rescue in Tripoli and his subsequent meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

BASKETBALL

Results from last night's State Cup quarter final matches:

Hapoel Tel Aviv 105, Maccabi Haifa 95.

Maccabi Tel Aviv 122, Betar Tel Aviv 89.

Hapoel Ramat Gan 74, Hapoel Upper Galilee 64. (See sports page 4)

U.S. top soldier meets with C-o-S Levy at start of tour

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, General John Vessey, now in Israel on a three-day visit, was received by a full honour guard at Israel Defence Forces General Staff headquarters in Tel Aviv yesterday morning. Following the ceremony, Vessey met privately with his Israeli counterpart, Rav-Aluf Moshe Levy, and later with the general staff.

Today, Vessey will visit military installations around the country. Tomorrow, before leaving Israel, he will meet with both Defence Minister Moshe Arens and Chief of Staff Levy for more talks.

American officials were upset yesterday by reports in the Israeli press that Vessey's arrival in this country had been delayed for over four hours without anyone being informed. According to these reports, senior Israeli officers were left waiting at Ben-Gurion airport without being informed that Vessey was going to be delayed, and without being told that he was "being diverted" to Cyprus.

According to the spokesman at the American embassy in Tel Aviv, Arthur Berger, this delay was brought to the attention of the Israelis "as soon as and as fully as the details reached the embassy."

Avitan accuses others in own defence

TEL AVIV (Itim). — Accused murderer Herzl Avitan yesterday continued to deny involvement in the December 1981 murder of Ramle Detention Centre warden Ronnie Nitzan and the January 1982 killing of Keren Or jewelry factory guard David Oshri. But Avitan did use his cross-examination to "reveal" details of other crimes and their alleged perpetrators.

"Ya'acov Shitrit of Mevasseret Zion, who was wounded in his home the night before yesterday, he's the one who tried to murder Yehelz Aslan a few months ago," Avitan told the Tel Aviv District Court, under cross-examination by District Attorney Penina Dvornin.

Avitan's testimony was marked by an almost continuous verbal battle with Dvornin, who repeatedly asked the accused to "stop telling stories" and to answer her questions. Avitan once called her "a

liar" and was cautioned several times by Judges Yehoshua Gross, Moshe Goldberg and Yosef Hasson. The other defendant in the two murders, Ya'acov Shemesh, also interjected comments throughout the hearing.

In denying his own involvement in the two killings, Avitan placed the blame on Yisrael Yeshurun, Menahem Klimon and Moshe Cohen (who were state's witnesses in another murder trial). Avitan also accused Klimon and his brother, Aharon Avitan, of possessing the jewelry stolen from Keren Or, during which robbery Oshri was gunned down.

Avitan also accused Yeshurun, Klimon and Cohen of involvement in what he called "the Jerusalem affair," referring to recent arrests of underworld figures in the capital, following the attempted murder of Shitrit.

Burg to announce stand on summer time in 2 weeks

By ASHER WALLFISH

Post Knesset Correspondent

Interior Minister Yosef Burg said yesterday that he will inform the coalition executive within two weeks whether or not he will support the proposal to institute summer time in 1984. If he decides to withhold his support, he will no longer actively hinder the proposal, he said.

Burg, who has stubbornly fought summer time (daylight savings time) for the past few years, appointed a committee of experts to study the proposal, and they recently recommended the measure by an overwhelming majority. Even if Burg does not actively support the measure, therefore, he

will not object to a private member's bill by Akiva Nof (Likud) providing for summer time this year.

At the coalition executive, the only strenuous protest came from Agudat Yisrael's leader, coalition chairman Abraham Shapira, who said the secular sectors had to make allowances for the wishes of the Orthodox.

Nof replied that the present objections of Shapira and the former objections of Burg were based on convenience and not on Halacha. Nof said: "The secular sectors have already gone more than halfway to satisfy the Orthodox and they do not need to go any further."

MK calls for end to state of emergency

Post Knesset Correspondent

Mapam Knesset Member Elazar Granot has posed the Alignment a dilemma, with his request to table a private member's bill whereby the state of emergency applying in Israel since independence should be abolished by law.

Granot's bill sparked a lively discussion at the Alignment executive yesterday, and several Labour MKs said the proposal required detailed and deliberate examination and should not be rushed into.

Yehuda Sha'ari, the Independent Liberal splinter representative in

the Alignment executive, said there might be room to abolish the state of emergency with regard to non-security matters (such as the economy), but security matters should be given special attention. Granot proposed that to place the continued state of emergency, the Knesset should be authorised to legislate a state of emergency for a three-month period only, in time of hostilities. This would require review and additional legislation if the government should wish to extend the period.

Egypt complains about Israeli 'moves' in areas

UNITED NATIONS (Reuter). — Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamel Hassan Ali has complained to the Security Council over what he said were moves by Israel to extend emergency regulations to the West Bank and the Gaza District.

He did not request any specific action.

In a letter to Council President Javier Chamorro Mora, Ali said the Israeli actions were a violation of Council Resolution 242 of 1967, the Camp David accords of 1978, the UN charter, principles of international law, the 1949 Geneva Convention and the 1907 Hague Regulations.

ברוך דין אמת

With great sorrow, we announce the passing of our dear mother.

Rabbanit

RIVKA KOWALSKY

The funeral will take place today, January 10, 1984, at 12.30 p.m. from 5 Rehov Greetz to Har Hama'arot cemetery, "Chelkat HaChassidim." For final details call: 02-661599 or 02-225152. Shiva will be observed at the home of Rabbi S. B. Kowalsky, 5 Rehov Greetz.

Rabbi and Mrs. Sholem B. Kowalsky
Rabbi and Mrs. Leib Ishee

Israel Council of Young Israel

extends sincere condolences to
Rabbi Sholem Kowalsky and his family
on the death of his mother.

RIVKA KOWALSKY

הקום יתום אתכם בן שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

We join in the grief of our beloved Rabbi

Rabbi Sholem B. Kowalsky שליט"א

on the passing of his mother

Rabbanit RIVKA KOWALSKY

Beit Hakenesset Migdal Hashoshanim
Birkat Avraham

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

deeply mourns the passing of

Prof. ALFRED KASTLER

Noble Prize laureate in Physics.
Honorary Doctor of the Hebrew University.

The Weizmann Institute of Science

deeply mourns the death of

Prof. ALFRED KASTLER

distinguished scientist, close friend and
recipient of an Honorary
Doctorate from the Weizmann Institute.

Health Min. needs IS1b. 'just to maintain level'

By MARGERY GREENFELD
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Health Ministry has been struggling for the past few days with the painful riddle of how to cut 9 per cent from a budget already so strained that more than IS1 billion would have to be added this year just to maintain the present level of services.

"Leaving aside the 9 per cent proposed cut, we would need at least IS1b. more than we got last year just to keep up with general population growth and with the aging of Israeli society. A shortfall of hundreds of geriatric beds is unavoidable this year unless we add more beds right now," senior ministry officials told *The Jerusalem Post* last night.

Due to population increase and improved methods of treatment, about 100 persons with kidney failure will be added to the roster of those needing dialysis this year and some 1,000 more cancer patients will require treatment, the officials said. Treating these "new" patients would cost about \$2.5 million a year, they said.

These were some of the main points made by Health Minister Eliezer Shostak at the Ministerial Economic Committee's meeting on the proposed budget cuts on Friday. Noting that he accepted the need to cut government spending, Shostak nevertheless appealed to the committee to try to find ways to minimize the blow to the nation's health services. "Our national spending on health care is among the lowest of any Western nation," Shostak pointed out.

"We face the enormously difficult problem of choosing between two painful alternatives: either we significantly reduce the level of medical services or we find new sources of income through increased patient participation in paying for health care," Health Ministry Director-General Professor Baruch Modan told *The Post* last night.

This was one of the primary motives behind the introduction of the IS700 fee for treatment in hospital emergency wards, he said, adding that the other, equally important, reason for imposing the fee was to reduce the number of people coming to emergency

wards unnecessarily.

The ministry is scheduled to begin talks with the smaller health funds this week to reach an agreement on the payment of the fee similar to the one signed last week with the Kupat Holim Clalit. Modan said.

Under that agreement, members of Clalit coming to emergency rooms with a doctor's referral and a guarantee of payment from the fund (Form 17) will not have to pay the IS700 fee. Instead, Clalit agreed to pay the ministry a lump sum of IS250m. this year for their members' use of emergency-room services.

Until a similar agreement is reached with the smaller health funds, their members will have to pay the IS700 fee on entering a hospital emergency ward.

Also subject to the fee are Clalit members arriving at emergency rooms without Form 17; they are entitled to reimbursement from the fund if their reasons for going to the emergency ward are deemed "justified." This clause applies to hospitals belonging to the Kupat Holim Clalit system, as well as to government and public hospitals.



Murder suspect Avner Kol (left) is brought yesterday to the Jerusalem Magistrates Court for his remand hearing. (Ruhimim 1-10-84)

Shamir meets Beduin leaders

Jerusalem Post Staff

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir yesterday promised a delegation of 15 Beduin leaders from the Negev and Galilee to closely follow the progress being made on solving their problems regarding grazing land, education and the construction of new towns.

Shamir met with the leaders, who represent 60,000 Beduin throughout the country, in the second of a series of personal meetings he is holding with representatives of the Israeli Arab communities. Last week, the prime minister met with heads of Arab local authorities and Arab religious leaders. The prime minister's adviser on Arab Affairs, Binyamin Gur-Arye, also attended yesterday's meeting.

The Beduin leaders asked Shamir to give the highest priority to solving the problems of the Beduin community, in view of their loyalty to the state and their voluntary service in the Israel Defence Forces and other security forces.

Among the problems raised by the delegation were speeding up development in the Negev towns and Galilee villages; solving the problem of grazing lands, which have been seriously affected by this year's drought; developing the educational system in Beduin settlements, with priority to secondary schools in the Galilee villages; allowing construction of two planned Negev towns (Hura and Lulima) whose construction has been frozen; and granting more money and authority to the Interministerial Committee for Beduin Settlement.

The Beduin leaders thanked Shamir for initiating "this important meeting" and wished him success in his post. Shamir, in turn, thanked the delegation for its good wishes and praised the community's devoted service in the security forces.

Shamir pledged to keep a close eye on efforts to solve the problems raised at the meeting, despite the economic constraints now facing the country.

Museum staff would forego wage boost to prevent closure

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The staff of Beth Hatefutsot, the Museum of the Diaspora, have agreed to forego improvement in wages and work conditions, in an effort to prevent the museum's closure, following the Finance Ministry's freeze on funds for the museum last week.

But Beth Hatefutsot will still receive in about a week if it does not receive the funds, museum sources said yesterday.

The Finance Ministry has rejected the museum workers' offer to forego pay benefits, demanding that the workers also cancel a 10 per cent "museum allowance" paid to employees of the Tel Aviv and other Israel museums.

Members of the museum's public committee, including executive chairman Mayor Shlomo Lahat, asked in vain to meet Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orag last Friday to try to persuade him to

cancel the freeze on the funds, which are 35 per cent of the museum's budget.

"We beg the minister to meet us and save Beth Hatefutsot from closing. We'll meet him any place, any time," the museum's deputy director, Aharon Doron, told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday. Doron said the Finance Ministry's insistence on cancelling the wage benefits was not based on the need to cut expenditures, because Beth Hatefutsot had not asked for a bigger budget. It in fact offered to reduce its budget for fiscal 1984 by 10 per cent.

The government's monthly IS10 million allocation to the museum was not transferred last month because of the management's decision to pay the "museum allowance" without Treasury approval.

Museum workers have not agreed to forego this allowance, saying it served only to equalize their pay with that of staff at other museums.

Gurel accuses government of discriminating against Haifa

By DAVID RUDGE
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — Mayor Arieh Gurel yesterday accused the government, and Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orag in particular, of discriminating against this city on political grounds. Gurel is a member of the Labour Party, and heads Haifa's Alignment-dominated Municipal Council.

He told reporters that the Interior Ministry had failed to fulfil its promise to consolidate the municipality's debts, totalling more than IS1 billion.

The Likud-led administration of Tel Aviv had not encountered such difficulties, he said.

Gurel said for the past two months he had made repeated attempts to meet the finance minister or one of his aides, to no avail. "Nobody wants to know," he said.

City Hall, meanwhile, has been forced to borrow huge sums to cover the deficit, and is having to pay back IS5 million a day in interest.

The municipality borrowed IS200m. from banks to pay employees' wages last month, but, Gurel said, it could not afford to do so again. "I absolutely refuse to take out any further loans at such high rates of interest. If we do not receive money from the government, there will be no wages for the workers, and I believe this will lead to a general strike that will halt public services completely," he said.

Gurel said City Hall had made every effort to streamline services. During the past few years more than 650 workers had been dismissed.

If the government was incapable of distributing the money it collected in various taxes back to the local authorities, that it should permit those municipalities to collect the taxes themselves, he declared.

Gurel said he had never known a situation where the finance minister and his senior staff were "unavailable."

Even under former prime minister Menachem Begin's government, there had been no disparities in the allocations to the local authorities, he said.

Gurel attacked Alignment Knesset members for not doing enough to highlight Haifa's problems. He has just written a strongly worded letter to Labour Party leader Shimon Peres and Alignment Knesset faction chairman Moshe Shaleh demanding that they take action to ensure that the city's plight is raised in the appropriate Knesset committee.

Meanwhile, Haifa's Herut branch decided to join the Alignment-led municipal coalition. Herut holds four of the 27 council seats.

It is expected that the party's council leader, Yom Tov Elkayam, will be made a deputy mayor.

Haifa court rejects two requests for autopsies

HAIFA. (Itim). — The local magistrate's court yesterday turned down police requests to order autopsies on the bodies of two men who were found dead in their apartments on Sunday.

The police said they suspected that one of the men, Haim Domb, 64, may have died of natural causes. The burial society, however, said that there were no signs of violence on the body and therefore

no reason to order an autopsy.

In the absence of relatives or heirs, the burial society is empowered to object to an autopsy.

After an examination of the evidence, the judge ruled against an autopsy.

The burial society also objected to a police request for an autopsy in the similar case of Mendel Kreuturo, 74, who was found dead in his Kiryat Ata apartment.

Court upholds sentence of military policeman

TEL AVIV (Itim). — The military appeals court yesterday upheld the sentence of five months in prison and a reduction in rank imposed on Military Policeman found guilty of smuggling goods across the Lebanese border and stealing perfume from a Military Police storeroom.

The soldier was given the jail term and a reduction in rank from corporal to private by the Northern District Military Court, which convicted him on two counts of smuggling and also of stealing impounded goods. The court found that he had taken advantage of the fact that Military Policemen are not searched at border-crossing points and brought in automobile radio equipment.

Explaining why it rejected the soldier's appeal against the severity of his sentence, the appeals court noted that a fair sentence must reflect the seriousness of the wrongdoing and also act as a deterrent to others.

Hebrew U. opens course to train labour activists

By AARON SITTNER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The fine points of tough bargaining for wage increases, how to call a strike and the limits to which an employer can be pushed to the wall will no longer have to be learned from veteran union leaders speaking in hushed tones in secluded labour council offices.

With 40 students already enrolled, the Hebrew University yesterday opened a 20-week university-

level course to train members of staff committees from all sections of the economy: industry, the services, the building trades, civil service, institutions and the public sector.

The course, co-sponsored by the Histadrut, requires more than 80 hours of academic study plus at least 10 hours of on-the-spot training such as participation in wage negotiations, protest demonstrations, strikes, sanctions and other industrial action.

ARAB GOVTS

(Continued from Page One)

soldiers and officers, further delaying the announcement of the plan.

Arab diplomatic sources said earlier in the day that Khaddam departed for home early yesterday in a huff.

They said the three ministers failed to reach agreement because of Khaddam's insistence on revoking the U.S.-mediated May 17 Lebanese-Israeli accord that Damascus considered an infringement on Lebanon's independence and Arab identity and a threat to Syria's security.

The sources maintained that though it was not an immediate point of the security plan, Khaddam sought a comprehensive deal before the resumption of the Lebanese reconciliation conference.

(The Independent Central News Agency, usually reliable on government affairs, said the meeting in Riyadh eliminated all differences and the security plan is expected to be announced in Beirut in 48 hours. But there was no confirmation of the report from the Lebanese, Syrian or Saudi governments.)

The Saudi news media were expecting the Riyadh tripartite conference to finalize and announce the plan designed to disengage

Lebanese warring factions in the areas between north Beirut and Israel's Awali River defence line to the south.

The announcement of the plan was to pave the way for the resumption of the reconciliation conference of Lebanese factional leaders with President Amin Jemayel after his army would have spread its authority over an estimated 40 per cent of Lebanese territory.

The first round of the reconciliation conference held in Geneva adjourned early in November. It was attended by Syrian and Saudi observers and came as a result of the September 26 Saudi-U.S. mediated cease-fire accord aimed at ending eight years of civil strife in Lebanon.

As diplomatic efforts to establish a durable cease-fire among Lebanon's warring factions continued, Christian and Druse militiamen battled in four villages of the Kharroub region just north of the Awali.

The fighting — involving heavy artillery, mortars and rockets — was particularly intense in and around the town of Wardenieh, where six inhabitants were killed and eight wounded, according to police reports.

Bank Hapoalim gives loans to clients to pay overdrafts

By JOSEPH MORGENSTERN
Post Finance Reporter

Bank Hapoalim is giving loans to clients with overdrafts to enable them to pay back their overdrafts and the interest charges on them, in the go.

The clients will then repay the loans in six monthly instalments, at an interest rate of 7.25 per cent.

The loans, available for one month only, are up to a maximum of 50 per cent of the client's monthly salary. They are available only to customers who have their salaries paid directly into the bank.

The Hapoalim move follows concern over the ability of clients to cover their overdrafts and interest charges for the three-month period ending December, 1983.

United Mizrahi Bank, in order not to increase the costs of its services, has announced that it will raise commissions by the 20 per cent already approved by the Bank of Israel. United Mizrahi officials pointed out that this step was being taken despite the fact that even the 20 per cent hike would not represent a real increase in charges when inflation was taken into account.

Investors sue Bank Hapoalim

BEERSHEBA (Itim). — Five hundred and thirty families of Givat Lahav, a communal settlement (yishuv kehilati) north of here, yesterday filed a IS168 million suit in the district court against Bank Hapoalim. The residents are claiming the sum — plus interest and linkage — for money they say the bank lost them just before last October's bankshares crisis.

Bank Hapoalim has not yet filed a defence brief.

The plaintiffs are members of an investment association they formed

to finance local development projects. Their suit states that, after issuing a public tender, they decided to buy IS56m. worth of Bank Hapoalim shares in September 1983.

At the beginning of October, fearing an imminent drop in the shares' value, they decided to sell all their shares. Association representative Yosef Klein went to Bank Hapoalim's central branch in Beersheba to do so on October 4, by which time the shares had accrued the value of about \$2m.

The plaintiffs say that the bank's investment manager and general manager talked them out of selling all the shares, persuading them instead to sell half the next day. The following day, the suit states, the managers persuaded Klein that the shares would soon be worth more than the dollar and convinced him to sell only 10 per cent of the association's shares.

The Givat Lahav families sold \$200,000 worth of Hapoalim shares on October 6, a day before the bank share market crashed. As a result of the bank's mismanagement, the plaintiffs say, they lost \$828,000 and have had to cancel most of their settlement's development projects.

Bus stoned, cars vandalized in Al-Bireh

The Ramallah police are investigating a complaint and a counter-complaint from Jewish residents of the settlement of Ofra and an Arab second-hand car dealer in Egged bus and a rash of windshield smashing in the town late on Sunday night.

Passengers on a number 70 Egged bus serving the Samaritan settlements of Ofra and Beit El arrived at the Ramallah police station towards midnight to report that they had been stoned as they drove through Al-Bireh. The windshield of the bus had been smashed and there was some suspicion that a petrol bomb had also been thrown at the bus.

At the same time, the car dealer arrived to complain that unknown persons had smashed the windshields of 10 cars in the yard of his business. He told the police that he recognized one of the passengers, a resident of Ofra, as one of the people whom he had seen inside the carpark.

The Ofra man, whose name was not released by the police last night, denied any involvement in the inci-

In Memoriam
First Yahrzeit
Shvat 8 — January 10, 1984:

Rabbi Dr.
MOSEH DAVID
SOLOMON,
aged 70

For forty years, he was the rabbi of Kehillat Yisrael Synagogue, Kansas City, Missouri. He was a learned and respected by the Jewish and gentile community. Rabbi Solomon had an infectious Mid-West folksy manner. Among his many notable congregants were the Eddie Jacobson Family, Mr. Jacobson was a one time U.S. Ambassador, and the late U.S. president, Harry Truman. In 1938, Rabbi Solomon acquainted the then senator, Harry Truman, with Zionism and the infant Jewish community of Palestine.

Rabbi Solomon remained a close friend of Mr. Truman through the years. Representing the Jewish faith, he delivered the eulogy at President Harry Truman's funeral. Rabbi Solomon spent his last years in Israel. He was the national religious director of the absorption centers. A synagogue was dedicated in his memory last June at the Jerusalem mental health centre, Ezrat Nashim.

He is survived by his wife, Betty, of Jerusalem, son, Ronald, of New York City, son, Dr. Leon Solomon, of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, his daughter, Mrs. Sheila Cohen of Jerusalem, and his father, Rabbi Abraham Solomon, aged 85, of Rochester, New York, and Jerusalem and eight grandchildren.

From his many friends, and the Captain Yehiel and Ruby Givony-Langer Hospital-Foundation, One Maple Street, Jerusalem.

Byzantine mosaics found in Bet Loya

One of the most colourful mosaic floors ever found in Israel has been discovered in the remains of a Byzantine church excavated at the Bet Loya site in the Lachish region by a joint Israeli-American team.

Many of the animal and human figures in the mosaic were damaged in the early 8th century by Moslem and Christian iconoclasts who objected to their depiction, but it is nevertheless possible to distinguish figures. Also depicted are geometric forms and Biblical and dedicatory inscriptions in Greek.

Bet Loya is near Moshav Amatzia south of Beit Govrin. Excavations were carried out by the Archaeological Institute of the Hebrew University and the Freeman Institute of Salt Lake City under the leadership of Professor W. Cleon, president of the latter institution. The excavations were directed by Prof. Yoram Tsafrir and Joseph Patrick of the Hebrew University.

The nearby presence of olive and wine presses and of burial caves suggests that the church might have been part of a monastery. The archaeologists believe that the church was in use from the 5th or 6th century C.E. until the 8th century, when the Christian community there was disbanded.

Police looking for tourist Van der Nissim

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The police are seeking Ernest Richard Van der Nissim, whose Canadian and Dutch passports were found in an abandoned red Suzuki car on Sunday evening, in a forest near Beit Shmesh.

There was no crime, said police sources, and they don't have Van der Nissim's name on a missing persons list, but they are concerned because the abandoned car, licence plate GN9 JTT, contained personal belongings, including a milk coat.

The missing tourist arrived in Israel last November. Anybody knowing his whereabouts is asked to go to the nearest police station or to phone the Beit Shmesh police on 02-91444.

LEADERSHIP SEMINAR — Ninety young Jewish community activists from Argentina, Uruguay and Chile have arrived in Israel for a three-week leadership seminar at Tel Aviv University.

NEW ENGLISH EDITION

YIGAL LOSSIN

Pillar of Fire

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The monumental television series is now an extraordinary volume... Pillar of Fire is a drama of the revival and liberation of an ancient nation that found its youth in the land of its forefathers.

Pillar of Fire is a magnificent book that traces Zionist history and Zionist thought in words and pictures; with well over 1000 photographs of historical importance contained in 547 pages, Pillar of Fire is "the most wonderful collection of photographs that has ever been seen about the history of the Jewish People..." "This history of Zionism... a book so magnificent that it is almost impossible to find adequate superlatives for it." Pillar of Fire is published by Shikmona Publishing Co. Ltd., and is available from The Jerusalem Post.

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U.S. won't push arms sales during Zhao's visit

HAMPTON, Virginia (AP). — Premier Zhao Ziyang of China arrived at Langley Air Force Base by special U.S. Air Force jet Sunday night, then headed for colonial Williamsburg to continue an eight-day tour of the U.S.

Zhao, who is to meet with President Ronald Reagan today, is the first Chinese premier to visit the U.S. since the People's Republic of China was formed in 1949, and the first high-ranking Chinese official to visit the U.S. in four years.

Zhao spent Saturday sightseeing in Honolulu.

He was greeted here by Selwa Roosevelt, U.S. chief of protocol, before travelling by motorcade to Williamsburg, an 18th-century American colonial town near Washington.

In addition to Reagan, he is to meet with Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger.

Senior officials in the Reagan administration ruled out major arms sales to China in the near future but said they intended to use talks with Zhao to explore ways of increasing contacts with China's military leaders.

Peking had been seen here as a possible U.S. partner in balancing Moscow's military power, but most U.S. government officials are said to have lost that hope. They now say they are using economic and technological cooperation to slowly build confidence between China and America.

"We're not pressing arms with the Chinese," said the official. "We haven't seen a lot of major weapons sales yet, and I don't see one coming soon."

He said the U.S. wanted instead to increase military exchanges between the two countries, opening

up contacts in a field where they have been most limited.

"That is a process that will proceed, but proceed rather slowly," the U.S. official said.

The official said the Chinese are hesitant about becoming dependent on a foreign supplier for essential military hardware and also do not want to have a request turned down.

Another U.S. official said the U.S. will attempt to direct the Chinese "towards things we can approve."

The Chinese are known to have discussed the purchase of anti-aircraft weapons and anti-tank guns with American manufacturers.

When in Peking in September, Weinberger said the U.S. was prepared to sell these weapons.

U.S. officials also will explore with Zhao the use of Chinese influence to rein in what Washington views as a "murderous" and increasingly dangerous government in North Korea.

"The whole issue is so important that we keep looking for new openings," said one official.

China has long supported Communist North Korea, but independent analysts report that Peking was "aghast" and "appalled" at the attempted assassination of South Korea's President Chun Doo Hwan in Rangoon, Burma, last October 9.

The official said there have been numerous diplomatic exchanges on the question between Washington and Peking.

China's 70-member entourage includes foreign minister Wu Queshan and Deputy Cabinet Secretary General Chen Chu. Zhao is scheduled to go to Canada on January 17.

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Suspected Sartawi killer reveals name

ALBUFEIRA, Portugal (AP). — The man accused of killing PLO official Issam Sartawi told the court yesterday his real name is Mohammed Hussein Rashid and that he is a Palestinian born in Jerusalem.

The defendant revealed what he said was his true identity on the fourth day of his trial for the shooting of Sartawi, who advocated direct talks with Israel, at a hotel here April 10. He was previously identified as Youssef al-Awad, 26, of Casablanca, Morocco, as listed in the Moroccan passport he was carrying at the time of his arrest.

He told the court in this southern Portuguese resort town that he is 23 years old and was a student of engineering before his arrest at a Lisbon hotel hours after Sartawi's murder.

The defendant said yesterday he belonged to the Palestine National Liberation movement and that he is a member of the Revolutionary Council — "what our enemies call the Abu Nidal group."

Rashid's statement came as the court was preparing to hear the final two witnesses in the trial.

The Abu Nidal group is a militant breakaway faction of the PLO.

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Sports

Cinderella basketball club aiming at the big time

By DON GOULD
Post Sports Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Maccabi Ramat Gan, the season's surprise contingent in Israel's quest for European basketball glory, come off a great State Cup win on Sunday night to host tonight's Olympic Antebellum of France in the battle of the unbeaten teams in the Korac

The French team, warned up for the critical quarter-final game, will tonight be led by Bob Morse, the former University of Pennsylvania ace who has been playing in Europe for the past decade, and by their second American Harold Johnson.

One more victory could hoist Ramat Gan into the tournament semi-finals. Following the extinction of the hopes of Hapoel Tel Aviv and Hapoel Ramat Gan and the dwindling chances of Maccabi Tel Aviv in the Champions Cup that could provide Israel's international basketball challenge with the lift it so desperately needs this season.

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Elsewhere in the NBA, Detroit defeated Milwaukee 111-100 and Seattle outscored Portland 125-110.

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The Redskins' vital play came on their 14-yard line with 6:52 to go. Riggins carried 17 yards on first down, moving Washington to the 31 in a march that produced three more first downs and positioning the ball for Moseley. With 40 seconds to play, the veteran placekicker, who was the NFL's most valuable player last season when he set a record with 23 consecutive field goals, trotted onto the field and kicked the field goal between the uprights. The capacity crowd of 55,363, silenced through much of the 15 minutes during which the game was being played.

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Cup. The action sparks off at the Ussishkin Hall here at 8 p.m.

Both Ramat Gan and Antibes have 2-0 records after notching up home victories over the other two clubs — Crystal Palace of London and Carera of Venice — in their quarter final groupings.

The French team, warned up for the critical quarter-final game, will tonight be led by Bob Morse, the former University of Pennsylvania ace who has been playing in Europe for the past decade, and by their second American Harold Johnson.

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THE ROAD to religious understanding has many strange signposts. One which should make Israelis sit up and take notice is a recent publication by the Roman Catholic Justice and Peace Commission in Jerusalem, entitled *Muslims and Christians on the Road Together*.

Speaking of the two faiths united "in a community of suffering and resistance," the six-page document conveys a general impression of Christian and Muslim agony in the face of Jewish oppression. Although the introduction notes that "a true dialogue is never against anybody," the fact is that the author of the introduction felt it necessary to make such a statement.

According to Father Frans Bouwen, who is a member of the Justice and Peace Commission, the local body is part of the Vatican organization of the same name, which was established after Vatican II in the mid-60s. The local group, which was appointed in the early 1970s by the Apostolic Delegate to the Holy Land, is self-continuing, co-opting additional members as it sees fit, with the approval of the local Roman Catholic and Greek Catholic bishops.

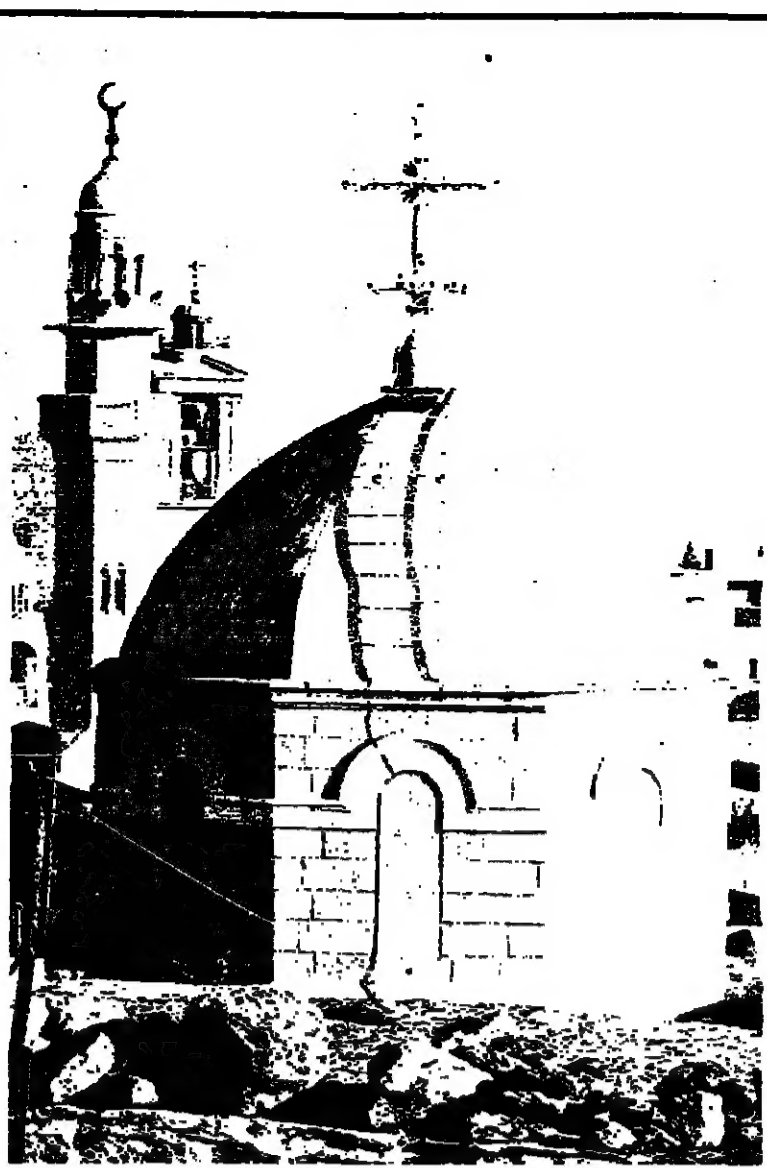
Until recently, Bouwen said, the commission never issued a public statement. Its activities included arranging aid for the families of those in Israeli prisons, helping in a housing project in Beit Hanina, a Jerusalem suburb, obtaining financial assistance for Catholic schools, and working for the more active participation of laymen in the Church.

Lately it has interested itself in what Bouwen described as "Christian faith and political conscience." It was felt, he said, that young people in the West Bank and Galilee received no help from the Church in these matters, and that this created a vacuum which was filled by Marxism. The statement on Christian-Muslim dialogue is evidently an attempt to fill this void.

"ABOVE ALL else," says the publication, "Palestine has been a land of welcome. However, the hospitable Palestinian people have

A DIALOGUE OF THE 'OPPRESSED'

The Jerusalem Post's Haim Shapiro describes an attempt to open communications between Christians and Moslems, who are, according to the sponsors of the venture, two faiths united 'in a community of suffering and resistance.'



been evicted into the roads, have lost their homes, their lands, which were once open to every passing guest."

Further on, we read: "For thirteen centuries, it is history that has united us Christian and Moslem Arabs in the same language, the same culture, and the same destiny."

For Israeli observers, this line, which they see as a falsification of history, is particularly disturbing. The call for an open dialogue

goes like this: "... we are thinking especially of those among us who are using all their energies to transform society on the basis of purely secularist and materialist criticism and viewpoints... Together we find ourselves face to face with the Jews, both believers and non-believers, whose most authentic tradition calls for the respect of persons and the acceptance of those who are different."

Discussing the document, Bouwen said he felt there was no

need for the commission to relate to Jewish-Christian understanding since there "are many groups here which deal with that." He admitted, however, that those Catholics engaged in such an effort tend to be foreign churchmen.

Most local Christians feel themselves exempted from such a dialogue because these discussions always take place within the framework of the Holocaust, for which they feel they are not to

blame. He added that local Christians also fear that any dialogue with Jews will be viewed by Moslems as political acceptance of the present situation.

He pointed out that the Moslems haven't reacted to the document yet for the simple reason that it has not been circulated among them. Where it has gone, he said, is to other branches of the Justice and Peace Commission around the world.

A PRO-ISRAELI Catholic source, who asked not be identified, saw it all quite differently. The document, he said, was a product of a faction in the Church which combines reactionary theology with radical policies. The document would be circulated among, and used by, other leftist groups within the Church.

In fact, as observers have noted, there is a deep division within the Catholic Church (and other Christian bodies as well), separating those who identify with the Jews and those who identify with the Arabs. There is little contact between the two and often they do not even speak to each other. The Peace and Justice Commission is clearly in the hands of the Arab faction and it is unlikely that a parallel group will be set up by the Jewish faction.

A Jewish scholar who has specialized in the history of Christians in the Middle East suggests that the document is perfectly understandable in the context of relations between the three groups over the last century. The scholar, who also asked not to be identified, noted that there is a clear analogy between the reactions of Jews in 19th century Europe and Christians in the 20th century Moslem Middle East.

In both cases, the minority faced a society in transition and they had similar reactions. Some tried assimilation to a greater or lesser degree. Among the Middle Eastern Christians it took the form of giving and adopting names that were not identifiably Christian.

Others saw their mission as the total transformation of society to a secular plane in which sectarian differences would be overlooked. Among Jews, many became Marxists and revolutionaries, while the large number of Christians prominent in the Arab nationalist cause is well known.

There were also Christian national aspirations in the Middle East, such as those in Northern Iraq following World War I, with disastrous results for the groups involved.

MEANWHILE, for the Christian in the Middle East, there is another identity problem. On the one hand, he identifies with the dominant Arab society, on the other hand, with the Christian West. In a sense, the statement by the Peace and Justice Commission is an expression of such a duality, giving vent to "Arab" sentiments within a Roman Catholic framework.

Indeed, it is no secret that some of the strongest advocates of the Palestinian cause are not local believers, but churchmen from the West who feel that they are doing their coreligionists a favour by giving vent to such emotions. For such Western clerics, the local conflict is just one aspect of the emergence of the Third World, with which the Church has cast its lot.

The scholar warns, however, that the tendency of the local Christians and their Western advisers to strike out at the Jewish state may well be "short-sighted." In effect they are aiding the triumphal Moslem society, which is more than likely to reject them when the time comes. We have already witnessed such reactions by groups which have thrown off their Jewish and Arab-Christian leaders.

If there is room for Jewish-Christian Arab dialogue, it must be not on theological grounds, or on the basis of the Holocaust, but rather in terms of our common historical experience, the scholar noted. On the other hand, they must stop making the Jews the scapegoats for problems they didn't create and which, in reality, have little to do with them.

But it is doubtful whether any true religious dialogue can exist. As Geoffrey Wigoder noted in a report on interfaith dialogue in Israel for the Institute of Jewish Affairs in London, even dialogue among Jews is sadly lacking, not to mention dialogue among Christians or between Christians and Jews. Those engaging in interfaith dialogue are often outsiders.

As for the so-called dialogue between Christians and Moslems, what we have now seems to be more a Christian monologue than anything else.

A grave issue

LISTENING IN...
Ze'ev Schul

not treated with the gravity it deserves.

I HAVE YET to hear of any real, in-depth research into the causes of road accidents in Israel. Listening in, one gets the feeling that, generally, it is the drivers who are at fault.

As a veteran long-distance driver I maintain that our road designers and contractors and, above all, those who are responsible for allocating the funds are no less at fault than the drivers themselves. The delay in opening the Ayalon motorway and bypass in the Tel Aviv area; more delays in constructing flyovers on the Gaba motorway and the generally poor state of repair of our overcrowded roads are but a few examples which have contributed to the dreadful statistics.

Instead of dealing with matters of secondary importance or getting Joe Criden to teach us road manners (not a bad idea in itself), how about zooming in on the more glaring shortcomings of our road system.

All that happens is that potential

accident spots get marked in red on police maps — and there it stops.

And, if the aim is reducing congestion and accidents, why not start encouraging people to use the railway? The bus cooperative, also, should be made to provide a decent service to the terminals, instead of merely clogging them up by using them as end-of-line parking lots, as they have done at Tel Aviv's Arlosoroff Station.

And how about reducing taxes on spares? Stricter supervision of garages? Getting vintage models off the road by lowering the price of medium-sized cars?

I HAVE A complaint about the Second Programme's consumer day this week. It was a sort of super-Kolbete on how we are being done by shop owners, manufacturers, importers, craftsmen — you name it. I doubt whether even one listener had the time or inclination to memorize — let alone note down — the names and addresses of all the villains in his particular area of residence.

We would have been much better served had the organizers given some thought instead to encouraging local manufacture and trade, choosing some blue and white products and comparing their price and quality to imports. And, instead of a day-long marathon, they should have given us the information in easily digestible daily instalments.

A BOUQUET for the army station, for their two hours of non-stop music — no talk — on Shabbat afternoon. I didn't particularly care for their collection of just about everything that will rotate on a turntable, but it was a step in the right direction, with credits given at the beginning and end of each hour. More, please.

Haifa Symphony Orchestra; Haifa and Tivon Chamber Chorus directed by Jonathan Bar-On; Polifonica "Miguel Fleta" directed by Emilio Reina (Haifa Auditorium, January 1); Schiller; Deutsches Magnificat; Spanish music: classical, folk, and modern and excerpts from the opera "Zarzuela"; Vivaldi: Gloria.

THE CONCERT opened with the lesser-known *Deutsches Magnificat* by Schütz, performed by the Haifa and Tivon Chamber choirs, conducted by Jonathan Bar-On. Although mostly clear in texture, the rendition sounded unprepared.

It was the appearance of the Polifonica "Miguel Fleta" from Zaragoza, Spain, that stole the show.

Devoted only to Spanish music, the substantial repertoire encompassed a variety of periods and

Traveller with an open mind

By LEA LEVAVI / Jerusalem Post Reporter

ONE PHONE CALL did the trick. A Rotarian in South Africa phoned Wolf Kantor, a fellow Rotarian in Israel, and this 29-year-old Susan and her guide dog Shawna were able to enjoy two exciting weeks in Israel.

"When my mother asked her cousin in Italy about my going there, he said she would have to come with me, because I could never manage alone as a blind person. By contrast, Rotarians here and in Italy, who didn't know me from Adam, were open-minded and willing to accept me."

Eleven years ago, while debating whether to become a nurse or a dentist, Susan lost her sight in an automobile accident. At the rehabilitation centre where she learned the skills needed to function as a blind person, she met another auto accident victim who could not speak as a result of his injuries. "I asked one of the teachers what could be done for someone like that man, and she told me about the work of speech therapists. I decided to become one."

In 1982, after finishing her master's degree in speech and hearing therapy at Arizona State University, Susan received a Rotary scholarship to spend ten months in South Africa, where she studied social work and sociology. "I had heard about apartheid, of course, but I don't draw conclusions about other countries from what I hear. I want to go there myself and draw my own conclusions... I found the country a bit backward culturally, and very ignorant about blind people."

"More than once, people forced

help on me after I told them I did not need it. This was particularly true of black people; they are different from the blacks in the States. Many of them still believe in witchcraft and other such things. The South Africans have inherited a problem and if I had lived there, I would have inherited it, too, so who am I to judge them?"

SHE FOUND Rotarians in South Africa, as everywhere else she visited, very hospitable and helpful. "I mentioned to one of them that I would like to do some traveling on my way home, and he arranged for me to visit Rotarians here and in Italy. I thought that here I would see some of the places where Jesus Christ lived, but never dreamed I would get to do as much as I did."

"I also never thought Israel would be such a colourful country. If you visited an American city with a population the size of Israel's, you would not find as much cultural difference as you do among the various groups you meet here."

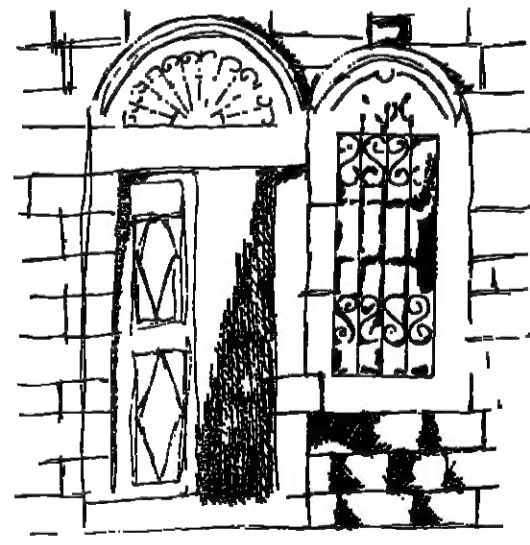
Asked how she can enjoy sightseeing without sight, Susan says she enjoys meeting different kinds of people and talking to them. There are also sounds, smells and other things to enjoy. "Walking on the old stones in Jerusalem and hearing the muezzin call the Moslems to prayer are unique experiences. If you can see, and you see something beautiful, you stand and gaze at it in awe. I can't do that, of course, but I can learn about other cultures in the places I visit."

that the kibbutzniks I have met and the Rotarians who now know me can vouch for what I can do."

After her sojourn in Italy, she will go home to the business of looking for a job. She knows it will not be easy, since employers tend to assume blind people can't possibly be competent. However, she is confident that she will find work — if not in Arizona, then in her native state of Michigan, and if not there, then somewhere else. "As for my other plans, I would like to marry a Rotarian," she says.

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by David Kroyanker



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Dollar deals new blows to most major currencies

LONDON (Reuters). — The dollar burst through another historic barrier yesterday, pushing the pound sterling below \$1.40 for the first time, dealing new blows to the mark and French franc, and depressing gold to a 17-month low.

The second week of 1984 thus began on foreign exchanges like the first and indeed most of 1983, with money flooding out of European currencies, as company treasurers found high American interest rates and the strong-growing U.S. economy irresistible.

After a hectic start to trading had pushed the pound down to \$1.3910 and lopped almost three pence off the value of the West German mark, the German central bank entered the market to sell dollars and acknowledged that it had done so.

Dealers said the Bank of England also gave light support to the pound, which stabilized at around \$1.3960, a loss of nearly six cents since the start of the year.

A spokesman for the Bundesbank declined to give details of its intervention in the open market, but dealers said it had offered small amounts of dollars to a wide variety of banks.

At the daily Frankfurt fixing, the Bundesbank sold \$61.9 million as the dollar was set at a 10-year high of 2.8332 marks. 11 pfennigs higher than the closing rate on the last trading day of 1983.

The French franc, another of the dollar's notable victims, plunged to a record low of 8.65 francs at the Paris fixing, from a close of 8.60 on Friday. In Madrid the Spanish peseta was fixed at a record 161.6

after the central bank bought \$176.7m.

Only the Japanese yen managed to stand up against the dollar's depredations, aided by capital flows into the booming Tokyo stock market, ending the day in Tokyo at 232.95 yen, from 232.80 at New York's Friday close.

European central bankers were holding their regular monthly meeting in Basel yesterday and were reported to be still wary of any large-scale intervention to try to influence the freedom of the marketplace. Previous efforts have usually had only short-lived benefits.

Most analysts say that the much higher interest rates available on dollar investments in the U.S. are a prime reason for the dollar's continued strength, especially in a world beset with uncertainties in the Middle East, Central America and Nigeria after the military takeover there.

In an election year, they see no sign of President Reagan reducing the U.S. budget deficit to ease interest rates.

The strong dollar, however, is making it very difficult for U.S. exporters and America's trade deficit is soaring — one of the reasons that many experts feel a decline in the dollar is inevitable before much longer.

The price of gold bullion slumped yesterday to the lowest since August 1982, being fixed at \$364.25 an ounce in London, as the metal continued to be neglected. The South African rand, the currency of the world's leading gold producer, plunged by over two cents to a record low of 77.90 cents.

S. Korea enters North American car market

TORONTO (Reuters). — South Korea's push to become a force in the industrial world is taking a new turn with efforts to break into the crowded North American car market.

Already a major steelmaker and shipbuilder, South Korea is now aiming to woo North American car buyers with keen prices.

Canada is the first target for Korea's biggest carmaker, Hyundai, but industry analysts believe success here will be followed by a move into the U.S. in two to three years.

The small, four-cylinder Hyundai Pony, which goes on sale in Canada this Thursday, has impressed some dealers already. One said it had "Japan quality written all over it."

The president of Hyundai Auto Canada, S.H. Park, says the company intends to sell at least 5,000 Ponys in Canada in 1984. He acknowledged that Hyundai had set its sights on the U.S., but said it planned to move slowly.

Japanese penetration of the North American market is under no imminent threat, but the Pony's base price of \$7,995 Canadian (\$4,635 U.S.) will be one of the lowest and at a time when Japanese cars are losing their reputation for low prices.

Hyundai president Chung Seung-Yung says South Korea has reached the "car age" and expects domestic growth of 25 to 30 per cent a year as Koreans begin to enjoy a higher standard of living. His company builds about 110,000 cars a year now.

Cars cost about three times per capita Gross National Product in Korea, against about half per capita GNP in the U.S. and Japan.

Petrol is a high 83 cents a litre (\$3.78 a gallon) and harsh traffic laws encouraged owners to employ drivers. But changes mean that those who commit a minor traffic offence are no longer held in custody until guilt is established.

Haifa Port gets new manager, H. Ben Eliahu

HAIFA. — Tat Aluf (Res.) Hanoch Ben Eliahu has been appointed the new manager of Haifa Port. He will take up his post next Sunday.

He replaces Tat Aluf (Res.) Moshe Haral, who has been manager of the port since 1976. Haral has been promoted to the post of deputy-general manager of the Israel Ports Authority and will be based at the central office in Tel Aviv, the Authority spokesman said yesterday.

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John K. McKinley, chairman and chief executive of Texaco, said his company reached agreement early Sunday with Gordon Getty to buy

the 31.8 million Getty shares he controls.

Texaco did not disclose the price Gordon Getty accepted, but it was understood he would receive the same \$125 a share that Texaco agreed to pay for other Getty

Selling eases but bottom not in sight

TEL AVIV. — The recent heavy selling pressures in the share and index-linked bond market tended to ease yesterday. But results continued to be very much the same as was the case on Sunday. Turnovers in both markets also eased, as index-linked bond trading totalled \$188.1 million, while trading in shares was just under the \$145 million level.

The Bank of Israel continued to do what it does best, namely extending support to the bank shares which are part of the "agreement" as well as to index-linked bonds. The recent policy of buying up bank shares without any change in price continued to be in force. Yesterday all sell orders of bank shares were picked up without any change in price.

At the outset of the week the average return on investment in the bank shares was 21 per cent, linked to the dollar, at redemption five years down the road. In spite of the fact that the prices did not change, the yields rose because the dollar was devalued yesterday by nearly one per cent.

Despite the poor market atmosphere and the continued deterioration of prices of individual securities, the General Share Index, commercial banks excluded, was able to point to an advance of 0.07 per cent. Of the various major sectors of trading only the oil and industrial shares were able to point to meaningful advances.

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

By JOSEPH MORGENTHAU

A statistical overview of yesterday's performance shows that there were 25 securities which were "sellers only," while only five others were able to be fixed as "buyers only." In addition, 79 issues saw their prices fall by more than five per cent, while 35 others were able to point to advances of more than five per cent.

Mortgage bank equities were mostly lower. Binyan Mortgage was not traded yesterday as the management of the exchange advised that it is being transferred to computerized trading. This practice is generally adopted if trading in an issue is very thin, or if the exchange considers that unusual trading practices are taking place. Not long ago Meir Hersh, chairman of the board of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, told The Jerusalem Post that the exchange has asked the Securities Authority to investigate complaints of irregularities in trading in those shares. Recently the Binyan shares were trading at a fraction of their highs of the past year. Some 60 per cent of the shares are held by Mishkan, a Bank Hapoalim subsidiary.

Insurance issues continued to see

their prices erode. Ararat 0.1 tumbled by 15 per cent while Reinsurance 0.5 and Menorah were both 10 per cent losers.

The service and trade group performed sloppily as prices continued to fall. Recent newcomer to the exchange, Meir Ezra, was a 10 per cent loser. Kopel and Galei Zohar were also down by margins of 10 per cent.

The losses deepened when trading rolled around to land development, real estate and citrus plantation issues. MTM I heard a thud as its shares plunged 17.8 per cent.

Industrials were in relatively good form, as the sector reflected a 1.18 per cent advance. Elbit Computers was one per cent higher, while its parent, Elron Electronics, advanced by 6.7 per cent in the wake of being registered as "buyers only" on Sunday. Arit traded unchanged for the second session. The Ackerstein shares were both the beneficiaries of 10 per cent advances.

Investment company issues were barely below the break-even line. The Discount Investments registered shares were 5.7 per cent higher, while the bearer shares were ahead by a full 10 per cent. Piryon, at 90, reflected a 10 per cent loss. The oil sector gushed ahead by a sectoral advance of no less than 6.31 per cent. Total trading turnovers in the group were a meagre \$55.1m. But price surged ahead by as much as 15.2 per cent, as was the case with Terol I.

Money changers flourish in the Middle East

BEIRUT (Reuters). — The scene is dingy, four-room apartment in a backstreet in West Beirut. The kitchen table is littered with cups of Turkish coffee, and several million dollars in banknotes.

An unshaven man in slacks, an open-necked shirt and a tweed jacket that has seen better days, stacks \$2 million in neat bundles into a cheap plastic zip bag.

Muttering farewells to his friends, he heads out alone and unarmed. The man is a courier, heading for Zurich, where he will exchange the banknotes for gold bars. The scene is one repeated dozens of times daily in Beirut, Amman, and other cities around the Middle East, where a multi-billion dollar trade in banknotes, gold and silver is an integral part of daily life.

His employers are three Lebanese brothers, who daily buy and sell two to three million dollars in Arab and international currency banknotes and some 500 kilograms of gold worth around \$750,000.

They are one of about a dozen such firms around the region, which channel banknotes from hundreds of smaller money-changers to where they are needed at any given time. They owe their existence and their prosperity to the Arab world's continuing mistrust of bank accounts, travellers' cheques and credit cards, and its hunger for readily accepted assets amid the uncertainties of everyday life. The tools of their

trade are computers and sophisticated electronic information systems, displaying their own gold and banknote exchange rates and keeping them in minute-to-minute touch with movements in the world's financial markets. They are also an essential part of a billion-dollar business in smuggling banknotes and gold into countries such as Syria and Egypt, which have strict controls on foreign currency and other assets.

The cash and bullion moves easily across national borders, by land, sea and air. The so-called "re-export" trade is highly illegal in the countries receiving the "imports." But border guards can easily be persuaded to look the other way; the smugglers say.

In another unprepossessing office off a main street in Amman, a money-changer is explaining the smuggling trade. Gold, he says, is only a small part of his business in comparison to currency.

"What volume?" About two tons a month, he shrugs, lightly dismissing a trade representing \$180m a year.

The customers are Damascus or

Cairo merchants, needing the currency to finance their imports of foreign goods, or Arab women loading their wrists with gold bangles as their insurance against the vagaries of life.

The couriers fly daily around the region, from Beirut to Jeddah, from Amman to Dubai, with their packages of Arab banknotes, occasionally slipping in to Zurich to exchange unneeded dollars, Deutschmarks or sterling for gold bars.

"In the West, the shipments they carry would travel in armoured-plated trucks, guarded by squads of armed security men. Here, they take a taxi to the airport."

Yet, despite the violence that has become an almost daily part of life in Beirut, robberies are almost unheard of.

Nobody is quite sure why. "It just doesn't happen," a money-changer says. "But they're insured anyway." Is the value of their packages never too much of a temptation to men unlikely to earn so much in their entire lives? He shakes his head. "It's all a matter of trust," he adds.

Share prices hit record in London market

LONDON (AP). — Share prices on the London stock market surged to a record high yesterday, with the Financial Times index of 30 leading industrial firms hitting 800 for the first time.

The index jumped 5.7 points from Friday's record 794.3 on the strength of last week's gains on Wall Street and other overseas markets and hopes of easier U.S. interest rates.

Friday's record 794.3 on the

Bank of Israel exchange rates

January 9, 1984	IS
U.S. dollar	112.5001
British sterling	157.2189
German mark	39.7176
French franc	13.0156
Dutch guilder	35.4108
Swiss franc	50.0223
Swedish krona	13.6637
Norwegian krone	14.1813
Danish krone	10.9770
Finnish mark	18.7986
Canadian dollar	89.8743
Australian dollar	102.2626
South African rand	87.8682
Belgian franc (10)	19.4940
Austrian schilling (10)	56.3134
Italian lire (100)	48.2833
Japanese yen (100)	48.2833
Jordanian dinar	20.74
Lebanese lira	97.0313
Egyptian pound	97.0313

Commercial Banks	Change	% Change
Bank of Israel	1000	-17 -1.5
Bank Leumi	1000	-17 -1.5
Bank Hapoalim	1000	-17 -1.5
Bank Mizrahi	1000	-17 -1.5
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Art Rath
Editor and
Managing Director

THE JERUSALEM
POST

Erwin Frenkel
Editor

Founded in 1932 by GERSHON AGRON, who was Editor until 1955. Editor 1955-1974 TED LURIE. Editor 1974-1975 LEA BEN DOR. EDITORIAL OFFICES AND ADMINISTRATION: The Jerusalem Post Building, Rimmua, Jerusalem P.O. Box 81 (91000) Telephone 328181 Telex 30121. TEL AVIV 11 Rehov Carlebach, P.O. Box 20126 (61011) Telephone 384222 HAIFA 16 Rehov Nordau, Hadar Hacarmel, P.O. Box 4810 (31047) Telephone 645444. Published daily, except Saturday, in Jerusalem, Israel by The Palestine Post Ltd. Printed by The Jerusalem Post Press in Jerusalem. Registered at the G.P.O. Copyright of all material reserved. reproduction permitted only by arrangement.

Shvat 6, 5744 • Rabi-Thani 6, 1404

Shamir's quiet shift

THE DISPARITY that has ostensibly surfaced in the last few days between "defence sources" and other government policymakers over Israel's policy in Lebanon is largely a matter of semantics and tactics.

It is semantic because it reflects answers to different questions. If the question is whether Israel supports the May 17 agreement with Lebanon, and wants it implemented, then all sections of the government, and indeed most of the opposition too, would respond affirmatively. Does Israel want the withdrawal of all foreign forces, upon which principle the agreement is predicated? To this, too, the answer is a unanimous yes.

But would Israel withdraw its army if some other way could be found — other, that is, than Syrian and PLO withdrawal — to protect its northern border? Here again the answer is affirmative, with a very large degree of unanimity in both government and opposition.

The Labour opposition has maintained this almost from the start of this whole sad saga. The government adopted it, without fanfare, as part of the transition of power from the Begin-Sharon-Rafael team to the more pragmatic Shamir-Arens-Levy team. (Labour is still at odds with Mr. Shamir over how best to achieve satisfactory security arrangements in southern Lebanon.)

Two of the three original war aims have now been discarded as aims: banishing the Syrians from Lebanon, and installing a strong, stable government in Beirut (a "new order"). These are now advanced merely as means to achieve the one remaining, much more modest aim: security in the north ("Peace for Galilee").

This important conceptual shift was publicly hinted at by Mr. Shamir when he presented his government to the Knesset. The premier then was ambiguous, and still today is reluctant to enunciate the change. This is where the disparity of tactics is apparent. It is hard for Mr. Shamir, purporting to head a "government of continuity," to proclaim a radical renunciation of past errors. It is hard for him, moreover, to seem more flexible, less determined, in Lebanon than in the U.S.

The "defence sources," perhaps under pressure from an increasingly restless army, are slightly more forthright. They assess that Washington, too, is shifting now to a position in which it would countenance continued Syrian presence in part of Lebanon — in the context of an overall political-and-security agreement. Only this Sunday, a senior American official noted publicly that Syria was becoming "more responsible."

But the "defence sources," too, are not proposing an outright abandonment of the principle of withdrawal of all foreign forces, or of the May 17 accord. If they cannot realistically be implemented in their entirety, they can still be salvaged in part.

The slow and sobering movement towards greater realism in Israeli policy was inevitable. Unfortunately though — such is the extent of the quagmire — Israeli realism alone is not enough to extricate this country now with even the barest minimum of its security requirements ensured.

The current agonizingly difficult — and still uncertain — birth of a limited security agreement between the warring Lebanese factions, designed to cease the violence in Beirut itself, is stark proof of the pitfalls that still lie ahead as Israel seeks to disentangle itself from Lebanon.

The Timna folly

THE COPPER MINES at Timna are due to be finally closed down today, and labour trouble is expected to greet the action as it greeted the publication of the government's decision in this matter. The closure of the mines is a hard blow for the 300 workers employed in them, especially when suitable alternative employment opportunities in neighbouring Eilat are scarce.

Economically, the argument for closure is unassailable. The Timna mines have already lost \$12m. during the current fiscal year, and their accumulated losses since 1980 have come to \$30m. Israel, in its present state, can hardly afford such a drain on its resources. The question, however, is why it has taken the agencies involved in making the decision — Israel Chemicals, the parent company, the Trade and Industry Ministry, and the Treasury — so long to get to that point.

The Timna mines were closed down once before, in April 1976, after some 20 years in operation. Copper prices had been falling and, as this newspaper observed, while it was desirable to maintain full employment in Israel's southernmost city, this did not mean that the purpose should be achieved by continuing to produce low-grade copper in a copper-saturated world at the loss of IL100,000 a year per employee. That, of course, was a time when IL100,000 represented an astronomical sum.

Four years later, the Likud, having in the meantime ousted the Alignment from the national administration, reversed the decision and the mines were reopened. The world copper market had not fully recovered, but it was thought that new techniques would have a salutary impact on profitability. The hopes were soon dashed, but the mines were kept working. Last July, the then finance minister, Yoram Aridor, assembled top economic officials to consider closure. After the meeting Mr. Aridor announced that the mines would continue to operate "despite heavy losses incurred during the past years."

Maintaining a facade of full, or nearly full, employment was more important than preventing economic collapse. Now frantic, if indiscriminate, measures are being taken to prevent such a collapse, and Timna is one of the inevitable victims. But the present government cannot evade responsibility for what its Likud predecessor had done to bring this about. True, the workers, when rehired in 1980, were warned that they could not be assured permanence of employment. But in keeping the mines open so long in the face of deficits, the government in effect indicated that it would under no conditions close them down again.

True, too, the workers cannot now expect that their severance pay will be four times the standard rate, as it was eight years ago. And there is reason to suspect that some such aim helps fuel their demonstrations. But they have a justified claim on the authorities for special consideration. They should not be the scapegoats for the government's reckless policy-making.

DON'T BE FUELISH
Conserve energy.

ELECTIONS NOW

By ASHER MANIV

WHAT HAPPENS if you hitch one horse to the front of a cart and another to the back facing in the opposite direction and then shout: "Together, pull!" In the best of cases, the cart will not be able to move at all; more likely it will be torn to pieces.

Yet this is exactly what is being proposed by all those well-meaning people who time and again demand a "national unity" government.

Of the three conceivable solutions being suggested for getting us out of the present morass — the other two being: an alternative government led by Labour or new elections — this is certainly the worst of all counts.

Some politicians never stop talking about it because it has a ring of peculiar popular appeal to it. Public opinion tends to pick up the slogan — meaning well but only having a regrettable lack of understanding.

In this country, whenever somebody speaks in the name of "national unity" people seem to feel obliged to jump to attention and sing *Hatikva*.

But if national unity depends on the composition of the government, then prospects are bleak both for democracy and for real national unity itself.

Real national unity in a democracy must prove itself, irrespective of what government happens to be in power. Most certainly, unity is not synonymous with uniformity of opinion.

A national unity government is, therefore, not only politically impossible (as many Labour spokesmen argue) but objectionable on principle.

To the democratic mind, the existence of an opposition is an integral part of democratic government. A national unity government does not abolish differences of opinion on policy. It only removes them from parliament to government.

It therefore diminishes parliamentary control and checks. And it makes government less dependent on public opinion.

This may be convenient to many, but it certainly is not democracy. Worse still, the continuous preaching of national unity also educates people to believe that

there is something wrong, harmful or "unpatriotic" in political controversy.

BUT LET US now turn to the question of the feasibility of such a government. Here we must take issue with the Post's editorial of December 30, which argues that "the imperative of the hour is national rescue jointly by the two major political parties."

Rescue? By all means. But how is this to be done? By leaving half "or more" of the government in the hands of the people who brought it to the point where it needs to be rescued.

The rhetoric of "rescue" almost sounds as if we were faced by natural disaster, such as earthquake, drought or flood. But, of course, our disaster is man-made. And the Likud, which made it, can hardly be trusted to rescue us from it.

A week later (January 6), after opinion polls had shown a clear advantage for Labour, the Post editorial again wrote on the same note: "Mr. Shamir should now recognize the emergency and decide whether to prefer national rescue by an agreement with the Labour Alignment or deepening national disarray."

Again, one is left wondering how Shamir could possibly do this — by admitting to what the editorial called "the misrule" of the Likud governments, the "misconceived military adventure and misconceived economic policy," as well as (what the editorial does not mention) its misjudged policies on the Palestinian question, its misguided, out-of-hand rejection of the Reagan Plan or of any other peace initiatives, its mischievous settlement policy, its mishandled treatment of the population in the administered territories...

Surely such an admission can hardly be expected of any political party in power.

But if it does not do so, why expect Labour to join such a government? If misconceived Likud principles continue to guide policies, even if only partially, then the inevitable result will be even more "deepening national disarray."

IN HIS efforts to revive the scorched earth left by his predecessor, Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad warns that we must cut back to the "standard of living of 1981." I contend that we need not cut back to 1981 but to rise to the spirit of 1948.

The economic crisis — with inflation rushing out of control, a daily widening trade gap and a total lack of confidence in government policies — is no less dangerous to Israel today than was the onslaught of the Arab armies in 1948. We showed the world then that after 2,000 years of dispersion and oppression, we would defend our historic opportunity to revive the nation, whatever the cost. Now, 35 years later, we stand by while the economy drags us down, as though we were helpless to prevent our extinction.

But the pioneering spirit of 1948, of sticking together and pulling together, is not yet dead. It is only dormant, waiting to be retrieved underneath a heap of bank shares and video sets, both of which have shown themselves to be of no use to us, and I sense it among my contacts with the public.

THIS IS our Dunkirk. If we can save the essence of our spirit from the economic wreckage, we shall be able to go forward strengthened. If we fail to seize the opportunity, we will face ruin. The choice is ours alone.

Surely the finance minister has enough advisers, all better economists than myself, but as a practical industrialist with produc-

tion schedules and payrolls to meet, I do have some ideas about how the economic crisis may be solved.

To save the shekel from becoming worthless, it should be exchanged at the rate of ten to one, to give it new respect. There is no need to go through the expensive process of printing new money. The banks can use available machines to overprint the new value on existing notes.

At this opportunity the government should permit those with "black money" to turn it in to the Bank of Israel with no questions asked. Half of it would be confiscated and the other half stamped with the new value. This move would be considered as full settlement of any income tax due, and no records would be kept to be used against those involved in future.

A 30-day amnesty should be declared for everyone owing money to the income tax authorities, during which they may settle their arrears. All those who do so shall not be prosecuted in future for past tax evasion.

The academic and free professions should be prevailed upon to establish a code of ethics for the honest payment of income tax. If these men of goodwill will show the way, they will influence others as

well. Honesty will prove to be as infectious as unsavoury practices have been in the past.

Everybody who transferred money abroad during the past year should be called on to bring it back and deposit it in an Israeli bank, with no questions asked. Perhaps the sums thus returned will not be very great, but the call itself will be an indication of the government's trust in the citizens.

WAGES AND prices should be frozen for 180 days. The freeze must also include all public services, social benefits and subsidies. The Histadrut must join in this move by agreeing to prevent any strike action during the freeze period.

Salaries will be reduced by seven to eight per cent in real terms, while a levy of the same size will be imposed on the self-employed, businessmen and industrialists. Everybody must contribute his share.

Income tax regulations must immediately be revised to make them simple, easily understood and fair to all.

All transactions involving more than a certain sum must be effected through the banks, to prevent uncontrolled circulation of funds.

For a defined and limited period

Dry Bones



Year's Eve celebrations at IS1,600 a head.

While more and more workers find it difficult "to finish the month," a majority of others suffer no reduction whatsoever in their living standards.

This is not only unfair, it is also extremely inefficient because wages in Israel are lower than in any other industrialized country. Both inflation and the trade balance deficit are caused not by the have-nots but by profits, demand and expenditure of the haves. Moreover, this policy is detrimental to economic growth, which is the real key to economic recovery.

But it is significant that the rate of economic growth has steadily fallen during all Likud governments; Cohen-Orgad, too, shows no signs of being concerned about it.

If Labour is to be faithful to its declared aims — economic growth and a more equitable distributive policy — there is no possible way of "rescuing" the economy together with the Likud.

HOWEVER, an alternative government formed on the basis of the present Knesset is equally undesirable.

It would mean the continuation of coalition bribery (both financial and political), inability to take far-reaching, clear-cut decisions and severe restrictions on a long-term economic policy because of impending elections within two years.

The only way out is new elections at the earliest possible date. True, there is no certainty that the division of power in the next Knesset is going to be much better. But that is a chance one has to take. Politics is always a matter of choosing the lesser evil. And in this case, all alternatives are certainly a lot worse.

Elections, at least, hold out a hope that something can be changed.

In any case, any new government, whatever it may be, will start with a new mandate from the people and will have four years during which to conduct a clear and consistent policy.

Nothing is worse than having the cart pulled in all directions at one and the same time.

The writer is a fellow of the Yad Tashenkin Research Institute of the United Kibbutz Movement.

Economic Dunkirk

By YEKUTIEL X. FEDERMANN

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of, say, five years, the well-to-do will have to assume willingly an additional burden to help see us through and support the less privileged. There must be no room for hunger or want in Israel.

High school education should be free only for the poor. Tuition fees for university should be adjusted to the subjects studied. We do not need thousands studying law, psychology etc., but we do need more qualified craftsmen for industry.

Unprofitable government companies should be sold, and if there are no takers, closed down. El Al should, if possible, be sold to non-Jewish interests to let it fly profitably every day of the week. Otherwise the government should openly subsidize it for the losses incurred from Sabbath grounding.

THE GOVERNMENT budget must be cut by at least \$2 billion. The Defence Ministry must share in the cuts. The war in Lebanon must be ended. We cannot have guns and butter, and if we carry on as usual, we shall have neither.

An agreement must be worked out with the U.S. so IDF forces are immediately withdrawn from Lebanon. If the U.S. insists on our staying, it should pay us a special "Lebanon allowance." We cannot

afford to stay there at our own expense.

Without going into the political aspects of settlements in the West Bank, one can say that their budgets must be slashed along with all other cuts, purely as an economic measure.

The travel tax must be increased. Businessmen who must go abroad will find the money. As for vacations, we can spend them in Eilat for the next few years. The hotels there are empty. The Liberal Party, whose sole apparent contribution to solving our difficulties is their opposition to this tax, should be told that while they have six ministers in the cabinet, the Swiss Government has a total of seven, including the premier, and they run their country fairly well.

The stock exchange must be taxed, as it is in the U.S.

A billion dollars' worth of standby credit should be negotiated with American banks, to be guaranteed by the Jewish communities of the U.S. and Canada. The credit will be phased out over five years.

THESE MEASURES, or similar ones, must be introduced immediately and vigorously. They can save the economy and renew the people's trust in its government.

There must be no shirkers no deserters. If we go down, we will all go down together, regardless of party affiliation or political opinions.

There is more at stake than a 20 per cent cost-of-living allowance or a 200 per cent inflation. We are endangering 2,000 years of history.

The writer is a Haifa-based industrialist.

READERS' LETTERS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
Sir, — Macabee Dean, in his article on prisons ("Two sides to prison problem" December 11), complains that Knesset member Shoshana Arbeli-Almozino did not give a balanced picture of the problems of our prisons.

I think he missed the point. Mrs. Arbeli-Almozino and other Knesset members were commenting on the conditions in Beersheba jail, which has repeatedly been described by experts and by the police itself as not being fit for human habitation. Keeping offenders, suspected or convicted, in such subhuman conditions serves no conceivable purpose in which society should be interested.

Winston Churchill once said that a calm, dispassionate recognition of the rights of the accused, and even of the convicted, is proof of the living virtue of a nation, and that the treatment of criminals is one of the unfailing tests of the civilization of any country. Would Mr. Dean really have us judge as a nation by the conditions of the jail in Beersheba?

But Mr. Dean is not only guilty of selling us short on being civilized. He proceeds to "balance the picture" by giving us descriptions which, in his own words, are "composed out of thin air." And so they are. If he were to be guided not by

CRIME IN ISRAEL

gut-feeling, but by facts, he would balance his gory details by mentioning that fully 95 per cent of all criminal offences (motoring offences excluded) are non-violent ones. The kind of crimes he describes in his article are far from typical: about 0.8 per cent of the total.

His points about the doubtful rehabilitative effect of imprisonment, and of our judicial system ignoring the victims of offences, are well taken. Why not take up the cudgels on behalf of restitution and compensation of the victim by the offender, in suitable cases, instead of his imprisonment as a constructive solution? It would provide satisfaction for those who suffered most from the offender's actions and at the same time reduce substantially the intolerable overcrowding in our jails.

GAVRIEL SHAVITT
Department of Criminology
Bar-Ilan University
Ramat Gan.

Macabee Dean comments: As a lecturer at the Department of Criminology at Bar-Ilan University, Gavriel Shavitt undoubtedly possesses a wonderful expertise in his chosen subject matter. And it is this narrow expertise, I fear, which pre-

vents him from seeing both sides of the problem.

At no place in my article did I say, or even remotely hint, that the prisoners in the Beersheba lock-up, nor any other one, do not deserve humane conditions. All I say is that the sympathy expressed by Shavitt, Shoshana Arbeli-Almozino and others, should also be directed at the victims of crime. They need it much more than the criminals.

Shavitt's failure to see both sides of the picture is evident in his playing with statistics in an effort to minimize the seriousness of crime in Israel. According to the latest Police Annual, there were 220,817 files opened in Israel in 1982, i.e., there were 229,817 criminal acts of a fairly serious nature reported to the police that year.

The fact that 95 per cent of these crimes are of a non-violent nature gives a distorted picture. Often the non-violent ones are more serious than others.

Which would he regard as more serious, the 1,493 files for pushing drugs, or the 1,904 policemen attacked while enforcing the law? The 1,113 cases of arson, or the 1,020 cases of brawling in public? The figure of 0.8 per cent of all

crimes being similar to those I described (hit and run driving, brutal rape, razor slashing a woman, murdering an old woman, drug pushing), distorts the picture. Of all, some 8,300 persons were physically attacked in 1982, and this does not include the 1,904 police attacked, the 74 cases of murder, the 134 cases of attempted murder, the 10 cases of manslaughter, the 24 cases of threats of murder, 685 cases of assault and battery, 340 cases of beating up civil servants, 111 cases of kidnapping, 322 cases of using force in carrying out an indecent act, nor 200 cases of rape. Does all this add up to a bit more than 0.8 per cent of 220,817 cases?

But even these figures fail to tell the whole story. According to the feminist movements, few cases of rape are reported to the police. Estimates place the amount as many fold more, perhaps 10 times more. According to a recent report by WIZO between 30,000 and 100,000 cases of battered wives occur annually in Israel. The amount of violence — unreported violence — is great in Israel.

PENFRIENDS
SUSANNE STECK (25) of Romerweg 2, 3114 Wichtach, Switzerland would like to have Israeli penfriends.

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